FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 FEBRUARY 1985

PLO-Jordanian Agreement

The Dubayy paper *AL-BAYAN* published the "text" of the Jordanian-PLO agreement in which the two sides called for "Palestinian land in exchange for peace" and expressed support for an international conference attended by a "joint Arab delegation comprising independent regional delegations including an independent Palestinian delegation," QNA reported. The agreement reaffirms that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people who have the right to self-determination and to establish a confederation with Jordan after the establishment of a Palestinian state. It also insists on the implementation of UN resolutions on Palestinian refugees and that both sides declare that they accept "all" UN resolutions on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict "including Resolutions 242 and 338."

The Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* provided a differing account of the agreement, saying it calls for a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to take part in any peace negotiations and includes "Palestinian acceptance of the proposal made by King Husayn to amend Resolution 242 so as to include the PLO." However, in remarks broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi stressed that the PLO must have an independent delegation in peace talks, asserting that it will not share representation or "give any mandate." He also reaffirmed that Resolution 242 "does not constitute a good basis for any political settlement," adding that any agreement which conflicts with these principles cannot be approved by the PLO. While a Palestinian official cited by KUNA confirmed that the agreement accepts "all" UN resolutions on the Middle East conflict, he pointed out that Resolution 242 "becomes obsolete if other international decisions are implemented." Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said that full details of the agreement have not yet been disclosed because of the need to secure Arab and international backing for the joint move, which must be protected from all those who are "seeking to foil it." The agreement is flexible but "does not include anything that infringes upon Arab consensus," the PLO radio added.

Reporting on the background to the agreement, Dubayy's *AL-BAYAN* revealed that Egyptian presidential adviser Usamah al-Baz was instrumental in removing "obstacles" between Jordan and the PLO, while Kuwait's *AL-ANBA'* stated that Saudi King Fahd helped in solving problems that had obstructed it, according to KUNA.

In further Israeli comment, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told Jerusalem television that the agreement represents "a step forward from the Arab point of view" but it is still "insufficient to open peace negotiations." While reaffirming Israel's invitation to King Husayn to hold direct talks in which "we will discuss all his suggestions," Peres emphasized that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is an "obstacle" to peace who "cannot make decisions."

Meanwhile, 'Arafat chaired a PLO Supreme Military Council meeting in Tunis and dispatched a reply to a message from the Soviet leadership, according to SPA.

King Fahd's U.S. Visit

Although Riyadh radio spoke of "optimism" about the outcome of the talks between King Fahd and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Jerusalem radio contended that Fahd has failed to convince U.S. leaders to accept the stand of the moderate Arab countries on the issue of settling the Arab-Israeli dispute. It has emerged that Fahd was "surprised" at Reagan's insistence on direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries, the radio maintained, and Israeli sources view the king's visit as "pitiful."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Two Iraqi aircraft attacked Iran's incomplete nuclear power station at Bushehr on the night of 12 February but caused no damage to the plant, IRNA announced. "Intense" antiaircraft fire confronted the Iraqi planes, which fired a single rocket that killed one person and wounded several others, the agency added. Meanwhile, an Iranian military communique cited by Tehran radio acknowledged that Iraq launched a "limited offensive" on Iranian positions between the Maymak heights and the Talkh Ab River early on 12 February, but it added that this "desperate attempt" was unsuccessful and the Iraqis were forced to withdraw. In Iraq, President Saddam Husayn authorized the release of Iranian POW's captured by the Iraqi II Army Corps in its attack that day, Baghdad radio noted.

Iraq

A spokesman in Tehran for the Iraqi opposition Al-Da'wah Party rejected President Saddam Husayn's amnesty offer, describing it as a "propaganda maneuver," IRNA reported.

Iranian Economy

In line with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's recent directives, the government has decided to sell a number of state-owned factories, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi announced in a statement reported by Tehran radio. On the other hand, the authorities closed down 150 shops in Tehran which were selling "hackneyed phenomena of Western culture" like tapes, videocassettes, fashion clothes and "offensive accessories," according to the radio.

Lebanon

If the Syrians enter the areas evacuated by the IDF in southern Lebanon the IDF would be prepared to "tackle" the situation just as it is prepared to deal with a similar situation on the Golan

Heights, the Israeli chief of staff declared in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. Nevertheless, the commander of the IDF's Northern Command acknowledged that the IDF may suffer a temporary decline in its deterrent power vis-a-vis the Syrians as a result of its withdrawal from the eastern sector, which will take between 10 and 12 weeks, according to the radio. As for the army of southern Lebanon, he revealed that around one-third of its soldiers have now deserted.

Meanwhile, a Lebanese army unit withdrew from the 'Alman Bridge over the Al-Awwali River following an encounter with an IDF patrol, Jerusalem radio reported. Although the Israeli unit took aim at the Lebanese, IDF sources denied that it "chased" them away.

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan denied Afghan accusations that Pakistani Armed Forces fired across the border into Konar and Paktia Provinces between 5 and 8 February, according to Karachi radio. In its protest over these alleged incidents, reported by Kabul radio, the DRA maintained that a helicopter was hit by the crossborder fire, which has "intensified" recently.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 031 *14 February 1985*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Regional Papers Detail Jordanian-PLO Agreement ..... A 1
Kuwait's AL-ANBA' ..... A 1
Kuwait's AL-QABAS *[12 Feb]* ..... A 1
Palestinians React to Jordanian-PLO Agreement ..... A 1
PLO's Qaddumi *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... A 1
Salah Khalaf *[MENA]* ..... A 2
'Prominent Official' *[KUNA]* ..... A 2
PLO Radio ..... A 2
PDA Condemns Agreement *[Damascus]* ..... A 3
DFLP Objects *[SANA]* ..... A 3
PLO Seeks Egyptian Involvement in Peace Talks *[Dubayy, AL-BAYAN 13 Feb]* ..... A 4
'Arafat Receives Message From 'Soviet Leadership' *[SPA]* ..... A 4
'Arafat Chairs Palestine Military Council Session *[SPA]* ..... A 4
PLO Radio: Zionist Bus Attacked Near Janin *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 4
PLO Radio: Joint Forces Occupy Ansar Barracks *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 4
PLO Radio: Zionist Position Attacked in S. Lebnon *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 4

OPEC AFFAIRS

OPEC Ministerial Meeting Rescheduled for 27 Apr *[KUNA]* ..... B 1
GCC's Bisharah Criticizes EEC Tariff Decision *[OPECNA]* ..... B 1
UAE Oil Minister Al-'Utaybah on OPEC, Oil Prices ..... B 1
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Feb]

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Heir Apparent Returns From Saudi Arabia ..... C 1
Daily Advises U.S. To Change Mideast Policy *[AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ 13 Feb]* ..... C 1

KUWAIT

Envoy Departs for Iraq With Message for Husayn *[ARAB TIMES 12 Feb]* ..... C 1
Crown Prince Discusses Abu Dhabi Leader's Visit ..... C 1
Minister Denies Plans To Buy U.S. Armored Cars ..... C 2

SAUDI ARABIA

Bahraini Defense Commander Departs Riyadh ..... C 2
Riyadh on Optimism Over Fahd's U.S. Visit ..... C 2

PDRY

Supreme People's Council Begins 19th Session ..... C 2
Chairman Presents Political Report ..... C 2
Algerian Minister Ends Visit, Leaves for YAR ..... C 4
Mauritanian Envoy Arrives; Message for President ..... C 4

YAR

USSR Parliamentary Delegation Concludes Visit ..... C 4
Mauritanian Minister Ends Visit to Sanaa ..... C 5

EGYPT

'Abd Al-Majid Discusses Jordan-PLO Agreement ..... D 1
Mideast Peace, Israeli Ties ..... D 1
Foreign Minister 'Abd Al-Majid Visits Paris *[cross-reference]* ..... D 2
'Abd Al-Majid Returns From Paris Visit ..... D 2
Jordan's Al-Fayiz Continues Visit to Cairo ..... D 2
Comments on PLO Agreement ..... D 2
Attends Dinner Banquet ..... D 3
UK Chief of Staff Talks With Al-'Urabi 13 Feb ..... D 3
Ghali Briefed on Relations With Israel ..... D 3
Commentary Views PLO-Jordanian Agreement ..... D 3
AL-AKHBAR Views Israeli Policy in S. Lebanon *[11 Feb]* ..... D 4
AL-AHRAM Comments on Relations With Israel ..... D 4

IRAQ

President Decides To Release Iranian POW's ..... E 1
Spokesman Denies Attack on Iranian Nuclear Plant ..... E 1
Turkish Finance Minister Continues Visit ..... E 1
Meets Various Ministers *[Ankara]* ..... E 1
Meets With Taqi ..... E 1
Meets 'Abd al-Rahim ..... E 1
Briefs: Ramadan Receives Swiss Ambassador ..... E 1

JORDAN

Tahir Hikmat Meets With U.S. Delegation ..... F 1
Arab League Requests Palestinian Passports *[THE JERUSALEM STAR 14-20 Feb]* ..... F 1
Energy Report Rules Out Nuclear Power Plant *[JORDAN TIMES 14-15 Feb]* ..... F 1
Briefs: Arab Seismological Stations ..... F 2
Railway Revenues Rise

LEBANON

Voice of Lebanon: Kidnapped American Escapes ..... G 1
AFP Details Escape ..... G 1
'Over 40' Israeli Casualties Reported in Sidon ..... G 1
Israeli Forces Besiege Burj Rahhal in South ..... G 1
Karami on Cabinet Discussion, Israeli Withdrawal ..... G 1
13 February Cabinet Meeting ..... G 1
Birri Misses Cabinet Session; Meets Envoys ..... G 2
MONDAY MORNING Interviews Nabih Birri *[11-17 Feb]* ..... G 2
Minister Birri Leaves for Damascus Visit ..... G 6
Karami, CSSR Envoy Discuss Economic Relations ..... G 6
Karami, Bulgarian Official Discuss Situation ..... G 6
Swedish Defense Minister Leaves for Damascus ..... G 6
Abu Nadir on Christians, Israeli Withdrawal *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 6

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Confers With Polish Justice Minister ..... H 1
Al-Shar' Receives Indonesian Envoy, Message ..... H 1
'Capitulatory' Jordan-PLO Agreement Criticized ..... H 1
Agreement Aids 'U.S. Scheme' ..... H 1

ISRAEL

Reagan's Remarks to King Fahd Welcomed ..... I 1
Fahd Visit Termed 'Pitiful' ..... I 1
Officials Fear U.S. Middle East Policy Change ..... I 1
Peres Interviewed on Lebanon, Syria, PLO ..... I 1
Peres on Peace Process, U.S. Aid, Tabah ..... I 2
Rabin on Defense Budget Cut, Lebanon ..... I 8
Kidnapped American Escapes; Reaches Syrians ..... I 8
Details on IDF-Lebanese Army Incident ..... I 8
IDF Denies Incident ..... I 8
IDF Detains 60 in Burj Rahhal; 1 Dead ..... I 8
Northern Command's General Or on Lebanese Situation ..... I 9
IDF's New Deployment Line ..... I 9
Notes ASL Desertions ..... I 9
Views Evacuation Schedule ..... I 9
Chief of Staff Warns Syria Not To Move South ..... I 9
ASL Deploys in Central Sector of Lebanon ..... I 9
Peres To Meet Pope During Italian Visit *[DAVAR 13 Feb]* ..... I 10
Pertini Shortens Egypt Visit as Gesture to Peres *[MA'ARIV 13 Feb]* ..... I 10
Egypt's Charge d'Affaires Leaves for Cairo ..... I 10
Meeting Held With Egypt on Daqar, MIA's *[DAVAR 13 Feb]* ..... I 10
President Herzog Sums Up European Trip ..... I 10
F-15's, F-16's To Arrive 'in Coming Months' *[HA'ARETZ 13 Feb]* ..... I 11
Minister Tzur Says No Final Decision on VOA Stations *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Feb]* ..... I 11

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

OAU Steering Committee Meets in Addis Ababa *[NAN]* ..... P 1

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Jordan's Husayn Concludes Visit to Algeria ..... Q 1
SFRY's Foreign Minister To Visit 16 February ..... Q 1
Further Reportage on Visit of SRV's Giap ..... Q 1
Received by President ..... Q 1
Makes Press Statement, Departs ..... Q 1

LIBYA

JANA Comments on U.S. Halt in Arms Sales to Arabs ..... Q 1

MAURITANIA

President Interviewed on PLO, Egypt, Saharan Issues *[MENA]* ..... Q 2

EAST AFRICA

KENYA

Minister Expresses Concern Over University Closure ..... R 1

SOMALIA

Opposition Statement on Government 'Tricks' *[Radio Halgan]* ..... R 1

UGANDA

Briefs: PRC Envoy Departs ..... R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

J.C. Mitterrand Meets With Biya, Comments ..... S 1
British Minister Begins 5-Day Visit 13 Feb ..... S 1

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Kolingba Relieves High Commissioner of Duties ..... S 1

CHAD

Bardai Radio Supports Congo's Conditions for Talks ..... S 1

WEST AFRICA

Entente Council Summit Ends; Communique Issued ..... T 1

BENIN

Communique on Visit of USSR Journalists Group ..... T 1

BURKINA

Meeting Held on Border Problems With Niger ..... T 2
Sankara Returns From Entente Council Summit ..... T 2

GHANA

Accra on Joint Communique With Algeria ..... T 2
Work-Study Program Discussed With Cuban Officials ..... T 3
Ecuadoran Envoy Calls for Union of Cocoa Producers ..... T 3

LIBERIA

LPP's Sawyer Banned From Politics Pending Audit ..... T 3
Doe Commissions Top State Officials 11 Feb ..... T 3

NIGER

Kountche Returns From Entente Council Summit ..... T 4

NIGERIA

Government Issues 1985 Wage-Price Guidelines ..... T 4
Lagos on U.S. Policy in Southern Africa ..... T 4
NAN on Dikko Kidnapping Trial Proceedings ..... T 5
Defendants Sentenced ..... T 5

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

African Portuguese-Speaking Nations Plan Summit ..... T 6
Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde Presidents ..... T 6
Machel on Summit's Objectives *[Maputo]* ..... T 6
Dos Santos on Goals *[Angola]* ..... T 6

SENEGAL

Niger President To Visit Country From 24-26 Feb ..... T 6

TOGO

Eyadema Returns From Entente Council Summit ..... T 6

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Leaves for 5-Nation African Summit ..... U 1
14 UNITA Members Killed by Security Forces ..... U 1

MADAGASCAR

Ratsiraka Receives Visiting Italian Delegation ..... U 1

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Leaves for 5-Nation Summit in Sao Tome ..... U 1
DPRK Envoy Hails Friendship, Solidarity Ties ..... U 1

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha To Release Four, Comments on Mandela ..... U 1
Nel on Talks With ANC, Mandela Release ..... U 2
DIE TRANSVALER on Negotiations With ANC *[8 Feb]* ..... U 2
Radio Freedom Cites ANC's Tambo on Armed Struggle ..... U 3
Paper Views 'Strained' Ties With Neighbors *[DIE TRANSVALER 7 Feb]* ..... U 3
Johannesburg on U.S. Opposition to Disinvestment ..... U 4
Plot To Assassinate Ciskei President Alleged ..... U 4

SWAZILAND

Bhekimpi Comments on Political Leaflets ..... U 5
University Council on Request for Security ..... U 5

ZAMBIA

Further on Kaunda Comments on Middle East, Africa ..... U 6
President Kaunda Tours Nordic Countries *[cross-reference]* ..... U 6

ZIMBABWE

More Security Forces Deployed for Elections ..... U 6
Kenyan President Sends Message on Elections ..... U 6

Regional Papers Detail Jordanian-PLO Agreement

Kuwait's AL-ANBA'

LD131343 Kuwait KUNA in English 1239 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 13 (KUNA) — A Kuwaiti daily newspaper published Wednesday the contents of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on a joint approach toward peace in the Middle East, announced in Amman last Monday.

AL-ANBA' unveiling the "contents, not the exact wording" of the agreement, said the eight-point agreement endorsed bartering peace for lands and called for holding an international peace conference in which all parties concerned, including the PLO, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, take part.

The agreement, reached by King Husayn and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat after months of deliberations, also endorsed the Rabat and Fes Arab summit conferences' resolutions as well as all resolutions adopted by all Arab summits as basis for the joint approach.

The two sides accept all resolutions of the United Nations concerning the Palestinian crisis, the Palestinian people and the Arab-Israeli conflict, but with stress on the restoration of all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, according to the paper.

The fifth article of the agreement calls for applying all U.N. resolutions concerning the Palestinian refugees, which indicate their right to return to their homeland or receive compensations, the paper said adding that the sixth point is stressing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The seventh and the eighth points of the agreement, which are probably the most important, are calling for "working for the establishment of an independent Palestinian (?state) within the framework of a confederation with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan," and "the PLO's participation within an Arab delegation in the peace negotiations."

According to *AL-ANBA'* King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who is currently in Washington on an official visit, has helped in solving two main problems which had been obstructing concluding the agreement.

The paper explained that King Husayn had demanded not to insist on the independent Palestinian state in the seventh article, arguing that this should be left for the PLO and Jordan to agree on away from the international interference.

King Husayn also demanded the cancellation of the word "Arab" in the eighth point which calls for the PLO participation in peace negotiations within a joint Arab delegation. King Husayn, according to the paper, said Syria and Lebanon's participation in peace negotiations was "impossible."

The paper however, did not elaborate on how King Fahd had resolved those two problems, but said the Saudi monarch had sent a message to 'Arafat telling him "he feels unable to ask any specific thing from Reagan (the U.S. President) in light of the Jordanian-Palestinian differences." The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has been declared shortly before King Fahd's meeting with Reagan last Monday.

The paper said it has learnt that Egypt, Iraq and Algeria had conveyed to Jordan and the PLO their approval of the joint approach agreed on by the two sides. Egypt has officially welcomed the accord, but Iraq and Algeria did not announce their official reaction. King Husayn has arrived in Algiers last night and met with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid for talks, reportedly on the recent agreement. According to press reports King Husayn is seeking the support of Algeria to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian approach before the visit Bendjedid is intending to make to Washington next April.

Kuwait's AL-QABAS

GF131454 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 12 Feb 85 pp 1, 23

[Dispatch from Amman by *AL-QABAS* correspondent 'Abdallah al-'Utum]

[Excerpt] King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat have hammered out a nine-point joint political formula to reach a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

During a 4-hour meeting that took place between the Jordanian monarch and the Palestinian leaders at Al-Nadwah Palace, the two sides discussed developments in the Palestinian issue in the occupied territories on the international level and agreed on a joint Palestinian-Jordanian formula designed to attain a just settlement of the Palestinian issue. No details on the agreement have been released. An official source at the royal court said that Husayn and 'Arafat agreed on the formula for the joint move.

AL-QABAS has learned that the agreement comprises nine points and was delivered to the adviser of the Egyptian president, Usamah al-Baz, who in turn will convey it to President Husni Mubarak. Saudi King Fahd was also apprised of the text of the agreement in Washington. It was learned that the agreement calls for the formation of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to take part in any peace negotiations and includes a commitment to all international resolutions and the Fes summit resolutions. The agreement also includes a Palestinian acceptance of the proposal made by King Husayn to amend Resolution 242 to include the PLO. The agreement vaguely tackles the question of the borders of the occupied territories. It includes approval of the issue of confederation.

Palestinians React to Jordanian-PLO Agreement

PLO's Qaddumi

JN131810 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] When we asked Faruq Qaddumi his opinion on the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat in his capacity as head of the PLO Political Department and member of Fatah Central Committee, he said

that the PLO insists on joining any negotiations as an independent delegation and categorically refuses to give any mandate or to share any representation. Let us now hear Faruq Qaddumi in his own voice:

[Begin recording] The PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee will discuss this agreement. An urgent meeting will be convened for this purpose.

We would like to affirm that the PLO bases any move or agreement with any Arab side on the resolutions of the 16th and 17th PNC sessions. These resolutions affirm the Palestinian people's absolute right to self-determination without any outside interference, their right to establish an independent state on their national soil, and the return of the refugees to their homes.

The PLO is the sole legitimate representative. Its participation in the efforts for a just solution must be as anindependent delegation. It categorically refuses to give any mandate or share in the representation.

We also affirm that UN Security Council Resolution 242 does not constitute a good basis for any political settlement; hence, the PLO's rejection of this resolution and the Reagan plan as well as the Camp David Accords. In my capacity as head of the Political Department, I say that any agreement that prejudices or conflicts with these principles cannot be accepted or approved.

Indeed, the PNC has approved the dialogue with Jordan on the this basis. We are coordinating with Jordan and the other Arab states in order to achieve a comprehensive, not separate or partial, solution safeguarding the Palestinian people's national rights. As I said, on these bases the PLO will continue to preserve its national march until victory.

Salah Khalaf

NC141057 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Feb (MENA) — Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, the second-ranking official in the Fatah movement, has affirmed that the agreement that the PLO has reached with Jordan on joint activity does not contradict the PNC resolutions.

In an exclusive interview with the London-based Saudi newspaper *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, Abu Iyad said that the recent draft agreement with Jordan will be submitted to an extraordinary meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee within the next 48 hours for approval and ratification.

Abu Iyad denied that the PLO has approved UN Security Council Resolution No 242 as a basis for joint activity with Jordan. He said that the organization's position on the resolution has not changed. He also denied that the organization has authorized Jordan to speak on behalf of the Palestinians. He said: We insist that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that it will represent them at any conference or talks and in any delegation.

Regarding the nature of the move with Jordan, Khalaf said that this move will be made on the basis of a confederal relationship with Jordan in the future and on the basis of an independent state and delegation to the international peace conference.

Khalaf pointed out that the PLO has agreed with Jordan to proceed from three legitimate principles [shar'iyat]. First, UN resolutions, which express international legitimacy and, second, the Fes summit resolutions, which express Arab legitimacy and, third, the PNC resolutions, which express Palestinian legitimacy. He said that if and when there is an opening toward any of these three principles of legitimacy, enabling moves toward peace, the opportunity will be used.

Khalaf stressed that there will be no concessions regarding the PNC resolutions, adding that any agreement with Jordan will be within the framework of the three legitimate principles.

Regarding the Saudi monarch's visit to the United States, Khalaf expressed his hope that his efforts will be fruitful in explaining the Palestinian cause to U.S. officials. He said that the PLO briefed King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on its current views and position prior to his departure for the United States.

'Prominent Official'

LD131848 Kuwait KUNA in English 1734 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Tunis, Feb 13 (KUNA) — A prominent Palestinian official Wednesday affirmed that the PLO-Jordan agreement on launching joint moves on the international arena to attain a peaceful Mideast settlement was based on all U.N. resolutions on the Middle East question and not only the renounced 242 Resolution. [as received]

The source, who wished to remain anonymous, told KUNA that "the controversial 242 Resolution becomes obsolete if other international decisions are implemented."

The agreement between Jordanian monarch King Hussein and PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat followed the later's two-day visit to Amman last Sunday.

PLO Radio

JN131903 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Political editor's dispatch]

[Text] The announcement of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement the day before yesterday on a formula for joint action to achieve a peaceful, just settlement to the Palestinian issue raised various reactions, mostly positive. However, the Palestinian and Jordanian officials' unwillingness to directly disclose the formula and basis of the announced agreement raised the most important, yet unannounced, reaction.

Of course, there is a purely technical factor dictating delayed direct disclosure of the formula and basis of the agreement. This is represented in the need to discuss and submit what had been

agreed on to the relevant Palestinian and Jordanian sides, who must approve or disapprove as well as suggest detailed executive steps. Meanwhile, the formula and basis had to be presented to Arab brothers and non-Arab friends because the broadest Arab support and friendly backing in the international arena are prerequisites for the success of this move.

While the internal Jordanian and Palestinian discussion is being completed and the process of achieving a supportive Arab front and effective international backing implemented, the preliminary Palestinian-Jordanian agreement on the joint move must be protected from all those who are lying in wait for the parties to the agreement, seeking to foil it. There are many of them, as everyone knows.

However, the technical manner in which the agreement is presented is not the only factor that specifies how, when, and to what extent the formula and basis should be announced. We can say without deviating from the truth that the crux of the agreement between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides is to give the joint move sufficient flexibility and leeway as ditcated by the complications of both the Palestinian issue and the international arena. Thus, the agreement's final formula and basis will be progressive and cumulative. Final outlines will be defined through probing the scope for moving, studying reaction, and realizing the opportunities and possibilities.

On the basis of this understanding, it was equally important to announce what has already been announced and not to disclose what has not been disclosed. In other words, it is important to specify what has been specified and to leave what has not been specified to the developments that follow the move's interaction with assisting factors and its clash with hampering ones. This concept will not make the agreement more ambiguous or lessen its value, nor will it affect the effectiveness of the joint move formula.

Principally, the agreement does not include anything that infringes upon Arab consensus, whether with regard to the basis of the move or the principle that has been agreed on to attain a formula for achieving a peaceful, just settlement in the region. Moreover, the agreement was based on what the PLO and Jordan have constantly announced about adhering to international resolutions that frankly stipulate the Palestinian people's rights. The agreement also adheres to the two sides' view on a formula for the relationship between them in accordance with the special, distinguished ties between the Palestinian and Jordanian people.

The agreement represents a turning point; it is that all that has been mentioned will now be practical implementation of the move to which each side will adhere in face of the other, the Arabs, a..d the world. This adherence will be within the limits of reasonable flexibility and leeway for this move and within the framework of Arab acceptance and friendly international support. It is hoped that the Palestinian-Jordanian joint effort for the issue and region will go beyond the nightmare of the stalemate that haunts them.

Finally, any move on the conflict with the Zionist enemy, regardless of how sincere the intentions and the efforts that are exerted, will depend mainly on the Arab situation, the balance of power, and the effects of international relations. These facts call for caution in anticipating results.

PDA Condemns Agreement

JN131843 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The Palestinian Democratic Alliance [PDA] has condemned the 'Arafat-Husayn liquidation agreement because it departs from the PLO's national program and the resolutions of its PNC's, and relinquishes the Palestinian people's interests and their basic right to repatriation and self-determination. This came in a statement issued by the PDA today following the announcement of the Husayn-'Arafat agreement to liquidate the Palestine question and to serve U.S. attempts to spread hegemony over the region.

The statement stressed that this agreement constitutes a blow to the Palestinian people's national rights and a liquidation of the national cause. Adopting the principle of a Jordanian-Palestinian partnership in any negotiations will detract from the PLO's right to independent representation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The statement also pointed out that spreading illusions about the possibility of regaining land through this move will not cover its destructive nature; this agreement is aimed only at authorizing the Jordanian regime to move toward a capitulatory deal with the Zionist enemy at the expense of the Palestinian people's rights and national interests.

DFLP Objects

JN131533 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 13 Feb (SANA) -- The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has called on the Arab Palestinian people inside and out of the occupied territory to struggle to topple the ill-omened Husayn-'Arafat agreement. In a statement issued yesterday, the DFLP Political Bureau warned of the dangerous concessions which 'Arafat and his Central Committee made to King Husayn in the recent Amman agreement. The statement says one of the main concessions is the principle of land in exchange for peace, which was presented by King Husayn in his plan. This principle means solving the conflict through settling the border issue between Israel and the surrounding Arab countries.

The statement asserts that this agreement is a dangerous violation of the PLO National Charter. The agreement authorizes the Jordanian regime to move toward a capitulatory deal with the Israeli enemy within the framework of Camp David and the Reagan plan.

The statement also calls on all Palestinian national factions, forces, personalities, and organizations to struggle to topple this ill-omened agreement, preserve the PLO's national program, and adhere to its role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in their struggle for their rights to return, sef-determination, and an independent state.

PLO Seeks Egyptian Involvement in Peace Talks

GF131449 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 13 Feb 85 p 1

[Fahd al-Rimawi dispatch from Jordan]

[Text] *AL-BAYAN* has learned that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement for a joint move to achieve a settlement in the region stipulates the exchange of "Palestinian land in return for peace" with Israel. Well-informed sources told *AL-BAYAN* that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stipulated the addition of the word Palestinian to the King Husayn proposal of "land in return for peace" as well as the condition that the joint political move should be based on forming a united Arab delegation for negotiations comprising three groups: Egyptian, Palestinian, and Jordanian.

'Arafat associated his final agreement on the initiative with the agreement of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, which will convene Wednesday in Tunis, provided that 'Arafat returns to Jordan with a full and written approval next Monday and subsequently informs Preisdent Husni Mubarak, whose country seems to have become a partner in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and is not only a mediator. It also seems that his adviser Usamah al-Baz, who held a lenghty meeting with 'Arafat yesterday, has played a basic role in eliminating the obstacles between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, and consequently has urged them to reach agreement in accordance with information from the Egyptian foreign minister, who was visiting Washington.

'Arafat Receives Message From 'Soviet Leadership'

LD132014 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1855 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Tunis, 13 Feb (SPA) — The PLO Executive Chairman, Yasir 'Arafat today received a message from the Soviet leadership dealing with the situation in the region. Reporting this, the Palestinian news agency said that 'Arafat asked the Soviet ambassador who conveyed the message to him to convey a reply message that the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, described as important. WAFA pointed out that 'Arafat received another message from the president of Nicaragua dealing with bilateral relations. This message was brought by the Nicaraguan minister of communications.

'Arafat Chairs Palestine Military Council Session

LD140030 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2330 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Tunis, 13 Feb (SPA) — The Supreme Military Council of the Palestine revolution forces met in Tunis today under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. WAFA said that the council discussed the development of the military situation of Palestine revolution forces, particularly those in the occupied territory and southern Lebanon in light of the escalation of the fedayeen operations against the Israeli forces of occupation in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon. The council also discussed attacks against the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. It warned against massacres by the Israeli occupation forces and its agents against these camps on the same lines as the massacres of Sabra and Shatila. The agency added that the council also examined training plans and the budget for arming the Palestinian revolution forces. In this respect it adopted a number of studies and measures concerning political and military developments in the region.

PLO Radio: Zionist Bus Attacked Near Janin

JN131712 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] In accordance with the revolution command's instructions and decisions to escalate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, the main arena of conflict, a Palestinian military spokesman has announced the following: A group of our brave revolutionaries inside the occupied homeland used incendiary bombs to attack a Zionist bus carrying a number of settlers and Zionist occupation soldiers while passing through the village of Kafr Ra'i in the Janin area of the occupied West Bank. The attack resulted in the bus burning and a great number of its occupants wounded. The Zionist enemy radio, which admitted our revolutionaries' attack, declined to mention losses and said that its forces immediately surrounded the area and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of having connections with the operation.

PLO Radio: Joint Forces Occupy Ansar Barracks

JN131735 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The command of the Palestinian-Lebanese national forces issued a statement today announcing that a group of its forces was able to occupy military barracks belonging to the so-called army of southern Lebanon in Ansar in the south. The statement says the group attacked the barracks with rockets and automatic weapons and was able to occupy it. The 12 people in the barracks surrendered. They were captured and were taken to an unknown place. A news conference will be held later. The city of Ansar is 20 km southeast of Sidon. The Ansar detention camp is about 800 meters from the barracks which was occupied. The Zionist invasion forces are detaining about 1,400 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners. It is noteworthy that 25 elements of the so-called army of southern Lebanon have fled the city of Sidon.

PLO Radio: Zionist Position Attacked in S. Lebnon

JN131754 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] A group of Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces has attacked a Zionist position in Al-Nabatiyah in occupied southern Lebanon. The attack, which was carried out with automatic weapons and RPG's, resulted in the destruction of the position and the killing or wounding all enemy soldiers. The Zionist military spokesman admitted the attack by the joint forces and claimed that only six soldiers were wounded. The spokesman said the Zionist invasion forces cordoned off the area, launched a large-scale search campaign, and arrested a number of citizens for investigation.

OPEC Ministerial Meeting Rescheduled for 27 Apr

LD141037 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0955 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Feb (KUNA) — An OPEC spokesman announced today that the OPEC ministerial council will hold its 34th meeting in Baghdad on 27 April. The spokesman told KUNA that the meeting was scheduled originally for 3 July but has been deferred [as received]. He gave no reason for this decision.

GCC's Bisharah Criticizes EEC Tariff Decision

LD132110 Vienna OPECNA in English 1726 GMT 13 Feb 85

["By Shada Islam, special correspondent"]

[Text] Brussels, 13 Feb 85 (OPECNA) — 'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), said here Tuesday that the EEC decision to impose high tariffs on Gulf petrochemicals was seen as an "attempt to smother an embryonic industry." "We need markets for our petrochemicals, otherwise our plants will be little more than tourist attractions," he told OPECNA in an exclusive interview. Bisharah is on a 12-day European tour to gather support for restriction-free entry of Gulf petrochemicals into Western Europe.

His talks with EEC officials, including Commissioner Claude Cheysson, have failed to produce a mutually acceptable formula. The GCC official was hoping that the petrochemical controversy could be amicably settled before the 28 February EEC-GCC meeting in Bahrain.

He said Gulf states were keen to conclude a cooperation agreement with the EEC giving them a right to export petrochemicals at preferential tariffs to European markets. "I explained to them that the EEC move is seen by the Gulf nations as completely unjustified. There is great intensity of feeling about the problem," he said.

Bisharah emphasized that he was "negotiating, not retaliating." "We are looking for a comprehensive agreement, but negotiations are going to be long and arduous," he cautioned.

EEC sources have said there is "little chance" of the Community agreeing to cut tariffs on Gulf petrochemicals, quoting international trading regulations in support of their position. One official said: "We are just acting in keeping with our rules for preferential market access." It is also being stressed that no quantitative restrictions on Saudi or other Gulf petrochemical exports are being contemplated.

UAE Oil Minister Al-'Utaybah on OPEC, Oil Prices

PM131245 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Feb 85 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-'Utaybah Tells *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*: The Dollar Rise Has Boosted Oil Prices"]

[Excerpts] UAE Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah has emphasized in a statement to *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that the increase in the value of the dollar against most currencies has in fact boosted OPEC's average prices, arrived at by the OPEC ministers at their latest meeting.

He added that an analysis of the price cut decision against the background of major currency fluctuations against the dollar confirms that the real-value prices have again overtaken the price cut announced in Geneva. He stressed that as a result of the dollar's strength the real value of OPEC prices actually increased by at least 30 percent since the OPEC oil ministers' meeting in London in March 1983.

Al-'Utaybah said that the conciliatory prices formula reached at the OPEC oil ministers conference in Geneva providing for a cut in the prices of light crude was a compromise solution which will have negative effects on the states whose oil prices have been cut, particularly if we bear in mind that the overall production averages are much less than desired, because the production ceiling has been set at 16 million barrels a day and the general drop in oil prices is a result of the glut in the oil market.

In reply to a question about the current market conditions following the recent price cuts, the UAE oil minister said that as far as OPEC members are concerned the market conditions are uncomfortable but bearable. He affirmed that the conditions must be bearable if the OPEC states are to defend the oil market and avoid a price war which could destroy other states and peoples.

OPEC, he said, has chosen the difficult course of protecting the oil market and absorbing the pressures resulting from the fact that nonmember states are producing as much as possible and winning OPEC markets. He urged these states to reassess their policy and warned that the OPEC states will not stand idly by while their markets are lured away.

On his own personal expectations regarding the oil market and the world economy in 1985, Al-'Utaybah said: We in OPEC hope that there will be relative stability in the oil markets in 1985. If 1985 passes safely, then gradual recovery will begin early in 1986.

In reply to a question about the oil glut in world markets, he affirmed that there is indeed a glut but that it is partly natural and partly artificial, because at one stage OPEC raised its prices by more than 300 percent. The UAE and Saudi Arabia, he said, warned at the time against such an attitude, but most OPEC states opted for the increase. Had it not been for the position taken by the UAE and Saudi Arabia, the price would have exceeded $40 a barrel and the glut would have been much worse than at present.

He added: There is a political aspect to the fabricated glut at present because certain states want to destroy OPEC, as the media of those states clearly indicate. Their aim is to break the back of this cartel.

In fabricating this glut some states used their strategic reserves, drawing more than 6 million barrels [as published] from those reserves and thus creating numerous problems and threatening the market with collapse.

BAHRAIN

Heir Apparent Returns From Saudi Arabia

GF131540 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Manama, 13 Feb (WAKH) — Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today returned from Riyadh, following a visit to Saudi Arabia to perform the minor pilgrimage. During his visit, Shaykh Hamad met with Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Daily Advises U.S. To Change Mideast Policy

GF131510 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 13 Feb 85 pp 1, 5

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Middle East policy is again stuck in a vicious circle through adherence to the Reagan plan, direct and individual negotiations, and by ignoring the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people at the Saudi-U.S. talks in Washington.

Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state, has stated that his country is still insisting on the Reagan plan and direct negotiations, contained in the plan, between Israel and Jordan. However, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has been insisting on negotiations with the PLO. Thus the U.S. policy only fosters tension and aggression in the Middle East.

The U.S. attitude indicates that Washington has not yet recognized changes in the balance of power in the region following the Lebanese experiment, which serves as an example for putting an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Currently, things are different from that ill-omened day when the Camp David accords were signed; the clock cannot be turned back. Things are also different from the day the Israeli Army launched its barbarous invasion of Lebanon. These days, members of the occupation forces do not all return to base safely, but carry the bodies of those killed by the national resistance forces in the south.

Therefore, the United States must not wait until the day its policy on the region fails totally — if it adheres to it. The example of Lebanon is continuously expanding and narrowing the gap between occupation and liberation of all Arab territory.

KUWAIT

Envoy Departs for Iraq With Message for Husayn

GF131144 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 12 Feb 85 p 1

[Excerpt] HH the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah dispatched a senior official to Baghdad yesterday with a message for President Saddam Husayn. The counsellor at the amiri diwan [amir's court], 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi, was the second envoy to be sent by Kuwait to the Iraqi capital in 24 hours.

Kuwait's foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, sent the director of his office, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin with a message to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz on Sunday. This followed a meeting Shaykh Sabah had with the Iraqi ambassador in Kuwait.

There have been no disclosures on the contents of either message. But Arab diplomatic sources said the intensification of contacts between Kuwait and Iraq were aimed at bringing the 52-month-old Gulf war to an end. These sources, who refused to be identified, speculated that Kuwait was trying to arrange a meeting between Tariq 'Aziz and his Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar', as a first step toward ending the war.

Crown Prince Discusses Abu Dhabi Leader's Visit

LD131935 Kuwait KUNA in English 1649 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 13 (KUNA) — H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah Wednesday expressed deep pleasure over the visit of Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan to Kuwait on the conclusion of Shaykh Khalifah's official visit.

The crown prince highlighted that the visit came as a frank reflection of the deepness and solidity of strong historical links between the two sisterly countries and peoples. The visit falls in line with constant bilateral consultations on all levels and within the framework of coordination and constant contacts between member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the premier elaborated.

H.H. pointed out that the visit was an opportunity for Kuwait to reflect its amir, government and people's brotherly appreciation to the United Arab Emirates' president, government and people.

Shaykh Sa'd underlined that all meetings during the visit were made in a spirit of amicability and fraternity and affirmed that identical views on the overall issues discussed were evident and displayed the keenness on further consolidating brotherly links between the two peoples and on continuing joint endeavor within the GCC framework in service of Arab and Islamic nation's questions.

The meetings further allowed the opportunity for consultations on the situation in the Gulf region and circumstances affecting the present crucial stage through which the Arab world is passing which necessitates increased efforts and serious action for the restoration of Arab solidarity to confront dangers threatening the Arab nation and its fateful issues, H.H. said.

In conclusion, Shaykh Sa'd hoped the distinguished guest and the accompanying delegation best wishes and seized the opportunity to convey greetings to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan hoping the UAE people constant progress and welfare.

Minister Denies Plans To Buy U.S. Armored Cars

LD141004 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Feb (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah has denied foreign press reports published in London yesterday that Kuwait has concluded an agreement with the United States for the purchase of M-60 armored cars.

The denial was contained in a statement published by the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* today. Shaykh al-Sabah added that Kuwait has not considered buying this type of armored car or spare parts from Washington. "When we decide to buy arms of any kind from any country whatsoever, we always make it a point not to buy arms of any kind or spare parts for military equipment that fall within the scope of the Arab boycott of Israel to which we fully adhere," he said.

A British magazine had stated that Israel has won a bid for the manufacturing of the rubber tires for the American M-60 tanks which will be supplied to "Kuwait, Egypt and Thailand."

SAUDI ARABIA

Bahraini Defense Commander Departs Riyadh

LD131435 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1340 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 13 Feb (SPA) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al Khalifah, the Bahraini heir apparent and commander of the Bahrain Defense Force left Riyadh this afternoon at the end of a brief visit to the Kingdom during which he was received by the Viceroy His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Riyadh on Optimism Over Fahd's U.S. Visit

LD140034 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Feb 85

["News and Comment" by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] Arab and international political circles have been expressing optimism about the expected outcome of the meeting between King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and U.S. President Reagan and its effect on the development of the situation in the Middle East.

Both Arab and international reaction agree that the talks between King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and U.S. President Reagan, owing to the faithful and conscientious manner in which the king has presented the cause of his Arab nation, are bound to effect the Middle East issue at this particular stage.

The situation has almost reached a lunatic level because of the differing views of parties not immediately involved — parties whose contributions to working for a just and lasting peace cannot be minimized.

As world observers have said, the meeting between King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and President Reagan, owing to the importance of the two leaders' countries in the Arab arena, is bound to have results compatible with the expectations of those who look forward with utmost optimism to these results.

The United States realizes that continued Israeli inflexibility and its refusal to deal with realities will not lessen the current tension but will engulf the area in new tensions, developments which would be difficult to control. It is because of this that King Fahd is concentrating his efforts on the search for peace based on justice. The U.S. Administration can contribute effectively in this respect. For this reason, observers believe that [words indistinct] the Kingdom is fully qualified to secure practical results based on a balanced outlook by the forces tackling the issue who are not immediately involved in the problem, such as the the United States.

As is known, the problem lies in the American position which separates the problem from its crux, the cause of the Palestine people. What the king is trying to do is to secure some American understanding of the true dimensions of this separation and its direct effect in increasing tension so long as a just and lasting solution remains out of reach.

The king's understanding, directly and personally, of the true nature of the American role is bound to create a new reality, free from all the distortions and fallacies that the enemies of the Arab nation are trying to establish by creating alienation among the Arabs. The enemy of the Arabs wants to convey his own positions only to the American people and their leaders because the enemy wants to remain the only one moving in the American arena. Because of this observers are unanimous in saying that King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who most ably and efficiently represents the will of his Arab nation and expresses its strong opinion, is rightly the one who truly expresses the hopes and aspirations of his nation and who dedicates himself and his country's material and moral capabilities for serving his Arab nation and defending its destiny.

PDRY

Supreme People's Council Begins 19th Session

GF131459 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Supreme People's Council began its 19th session today under the leadership of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Chairman Presents Political Report

GF132015 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Feb 85

["Text" of political report presented by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to the 19th session of the Supreme People's Council in Aden on 13 February — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Brother people's deputies. The session of your esteemed council is being held at the beginning of this year, a year which will intensify the struggle efforts of our country's laborers and toilers and all the ministries and organs in order to strengthen and consolidate our national democratic regime and to resume our march toward the achievement of more goals that have been and are being mapped out by the YSP.

The year 1985 is the year for completing the implementation of the second 5-year plan for economic and social development. It is also the year for the convocation of the YSP General Congress: a significant incident and a political, cultural, and social demonstration, which will take note of the various aspects of the revolutionary process in our country and will define the phenomena, trends, and duties of the next 5 years in various fields. It will also map out the main trends of the third 5-year development plan, the preparation of which various organs are exerting efforts and dedicating experiences and knowledge this year.

Brother people's deputies, while we are looking at this year's assignments and their implementation with optimism, confidence, and readiness, allow us to review for you the most important accomplishments that we achieved in the political, economic, cultural, and social fields in 1984.

In the economic field, great efforts were exerted to implement the 4th year plan of the second 5-year development plan. Necessary measures were taken to improve the situation and work methods in a number of economic branches. Likewise, a number of laws and regulations were approved with the purpose of improving their performance and raising production.

As a result of the efforts exerted, the estimated implementation indicators show that investment expenditure has amounted to 158.8 million dinars, an increase of about 6.3 percent compared with the 1983 figure. It is expected that the ratio of the actual achievement of the investments will be about 83 percent. This ratio is more than the ratios achieved during the previous three years, that is 1981, 1982, and 1983, where the ratios of achievement were 77.9 percent, 75 percent and 78 percent, respectively. The estimates show that industrial production has reached 80.1 million dinars in fixed rates.

As for the importance of oil and minerals, the search and exploration for oil and mineral resources in the republic resumed in order to implement the earthquake and geological surveys in a number of regions. This resulted in various promising signs indicating the presence of oil and minerals. A number of exploration and experimental wells were drilled in Shabwah, northern Hadramawt, and [words indistinct] region in 1984. These wells are still subject to studies and scientific experiments. Within this framework the necessary investments to implement the project for the geological and hydrogeological map for the two parts of Yemen were defined in coordination with our brethren in the northern part, because of the great importance of this project in exploring and making use of natural and water resources in the two parts of Yemen.

Brother people's deputies, we feel satisfaction over the continued development of the military and security establishments which are responsible for defending the homeland and its sovereignty and the gains and accomplishments of the revolution. The year 1984 witnessed great successes in the implementation of combat training and political education programs and it pleases us to warmly salute them and praise their permanent alertness and their readiness to defend the Yemeni revolution, to implement the 5-year plan, and to achieve Yemeni unity. We affirm the party and state's continued support to our military and security establishments in order to enable them to achieve further successes in the course of defending the homeland's sovereignty, the people's security, and the revolution's gains.

We also express satisfaction with the activities of popular control and the growing role it plays in carrying out its tasks. We reaffirm that popular control is one of the important organs for protecting legitimacy and public property and that we shall always support it.

Brother people's deputies, on the level of our national Yemeni issue, we worked to bolster coordination between the two parts of the Yemen in various fields. The convocation of the third session of the Supreme Yemeni Council, which represents the superior form of unity coordination, was a very significant event in view of the issues it discussed and the results which it yielded, the implementation of which will form strong bases for restoring Yemeni unity. It was agreed to develop and organize the activities of joint companies and to provide special allocations for the study of economic and technical benefits of the joint agricultural and fisheries projects. It was decided to unite the time schedules of the two development plans and to submit a report in this regard to the coming session. Preliminary steps for a geological survey project of the two parts began. Exchanges of Yemeni capabilities and constant contacts to develop further means of cooperation also have begun.

The Aden and Ta'izz meetings between the leaderships of the two parts were of great importance for continuing the implementation of the results of the third session of the Yemeni Council and for studying a number of issues concerning the future and the sovereignty and stability of our Yemeni fatherland. During these meetings it was agreed to define a joint location for exploiting natural resources. This agreement aims to establish coordination and cooperation toward the path of economic integrity.

We reaffirm our keenness to continue the contacts and meetings with officials in the northern part, foremost of whom is Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in order to strengthen our unitarian steps and to yield fruitful results which will serve the aspirations of our peoples for restoring the unity of their fatherland and our Arab fateful causes.

Dear brothers, on the level of Arab and international relations, our country's stances on various causes and developments represent a clear and principled policy based on the principle of peaceful cooperation and international solidarity. With respect to the situation in the region, we are keen to develop our relations with its countries based on mutual respect and nonintervention in internal affairs. We have contributed positively through our relations and contacts toward maintaining the region's security and stability. Our stance is based on our policy of making the region a zone of security and peace, as we are aware of the

dangers of the actions and military presence of the imperialists which threaten the independence, security, [words indistinct] of our Arab peoples.

The regions of the Arab Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Horn of Africa are facing imperialist threats and plots. The call to make these regions zones of peace expresses our profound and clear view on the dimensions of these dangers which threaten the freedom, independence, security, and stability of the peoples of these regions. In this regard, we affirm the [words indistinct] of the threats of the Iraqi-Iranian war through the termination of this war and the overcoming of differences between the two neighboring countries through peaceful means.

With regard to the Arab situation, the threat from the hostile and expansionist policy of the imperialist and Zionist powers is increasing. It is aimed at imposing capitulatory plans in order to strike at the Arab liberation movement and legal Arab rights and causes, foremost of which is the cause of the Arab Palestinian people and their right to return to their homeland, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their independent national state. Within this framework the U.S.-Zionist strategic alliance expresses the real motive of U.S. imperialism in the region and its encouragement and support to the Zionists to occupy more Arab territories and usurp the rights of the Arab Palestinian people.

Our country's stance has been clear on various situations and developments; it is significant as regards the situation of the PLO and the necessity of safeguarding its unity and position. We believe that the Aden-Algiers agreement represents a realistic basis for a Palestinian national dialogue and for the maintenance of the organization's unity and the unity of the Palestinian people's struggle and their relations with all Arab progressive powers and regimes and peace-loving powers in the world.

Brother people's deputies, the international situation is becoming more complicated. Every day new tension points arise due to the hostile policy of imperialism, which is increasing the production of nuclear arms which threaten humanity, expanding its hostile bases and missiles, and holding maneuvers near certain countries which have chosen a path of progress away from the hegemony of imperialism, whether in the Atlantic, or the Carribean or other regions. This policy is condemned and opposed by all peace-loving peoples and powers in the world.

The peaceful policy of the Soviet Union and its peaceful initiatives, which receive large-scale international support, aim at terminating international tension, establishing bases for international peace, settling differences through peaceful means, and establishing good international relations. In this regard, we consider the Soviet proposals for the solution of the Middle East question as practical and realistic.

Dear brothers, with regard to our parliamentary activities, preparations are proceeding very well for the 15th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union, which is due to be held in our country at the end of this month and [words indistinct] an important international event represented in the 12th international festival of youths and students in Moscow. It is an event the importance of which exceeds the limits of the international democratic youth and students' movement and comprises all popular, progressive and democratic movements opposing war and imperialism.

Algerian Minister Ends Visit, Leaves for YAR

GF131505 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Brother Mohamed Nabi, member of the Central Council of the Algerian National Liberation Front and Algerian minister of labor and vocational training, left Aden today by land for the northern sector of the homeland following a visit to the PDRY which lasted for several days. During his visit he met with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Mauritanian Envoy Arrives; Message for President

GF131502 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Mohamed 'Abd al-Qadir Ould Sidi, deputy Mauritanian foreign minister, arrived in Aden today on a brief visit to the PDRY.

In a statement to ANA on his arrival, he said that he is carrying a message to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, from Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, head of the Military Committee for National Salvation and president of Mauritania, dealing with the latest developments in Mauritania, in addition to an exchange of views on issues of interest to both fraternal countries.

He was received by Brother Muhammad 'Ali Imayah, deputy foreign minister, and Brother Mohammad Abdu al-Sindi, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

YAR

USSR Parliamentary Delegation Concludes Visit

GF140650 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The USSR parliamentary delegation led by Arnold Fedorovich Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium, left Sanaa today at the conclusion of its official and friendly visit to our country. The visit, which lasted several days, was in response to an invitation by the Standing Committee.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Ryuytel said: As we leave this beautiful country, we carry with us feelings of extreme satisfaction and gratitude for the hospitality and warm welcome which have been accorded to us. He noted that his visit to the YAR was an opportunity to view our people's life, achievements, and successes.

The head of the USSR parliamentary delegation expressed his happiness at meeting with Brother Leader President, Secretary General of the General People's Congress Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, during which he conveyed the greetings of USSR President Konstantin Chernenko to the brother leader president and the Soviet leader's greetings to our people and his wishes for our people's continued progress and prosperity.

Arnold Ryuytel praised the constant development of USSR-Yemeni relations. He said this development acquired new impetus following the conclusion of the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries, which was signed in Moscow in October 1984 by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and President Konstantin Chernenko.

In reference to his talks with officials of the Constituent People's Assembly, he said: These talks have enabled us to exchange views on a large number of issues. Both sides were informed of the activities of the parliamentary bodies in each other's countries. In addition, urgent international issues were reviewed. He pointed out the closeness of views on all matters which were discussed.

Concluding his statement, Ryuytel stressed that the visit of the Soviet parliamentary delegation to our country will help to strengthen and develop the multi-sided friendship and cooperation relations between the two friendly countries and peoples.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother Yusuf al-Sahari, deputychairman of the Constituent People's Council and member of the Standing Committee; 'Abdallah al-'Aisi, secretary general of the assembly; and Anatoliy Ivanovich Filev, USSR ambassador in Sanaa.

Mauritanian Minister Ends Visit to Sanaa

GF131830 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Mohamed 'Abd al-Qadir Ould Sidi, Mauritanian deputy foreign and cooperation minister, left Sanaa today after a 3-day visit to our country. During his visit, Ould Sidi handed a letter to Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from Mauritanian President Maayouia Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Ould Sidi said that during his meeting with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih he listened to a number of enlightening ideas from which Mauritania can benefit because of similarities between the two friendly countries. He concluded his statement by saying that he is carrying a reply message from President Salih to his brother, the Mauritanian president.

He was seen off by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ahmad al-'Iryani and an official from the president's Protocol Department.

'Abd Al-Majid Discusses Jordan-PLO Agreement

NC131131 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Paris, 13 Feb (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said during his meeting with a number of Arab newsmen today that he sensed positive points during his recent tour of Britain, the United States, and France. He said that he also sensed an understanding and an idenity of views between Egyptian stands and those of the countries he visited. He added: We are following the developments in the Middle East and consider what has taken place in Amman between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides as an important step. He added: "I have not studied the text of the agreement that has been reached; but the fact that an agreement has been reached is a success in itself. There is no doubt that all Arabs and the Arab nations aspiring to peace will be happy with the Palestinian-Jordanian rapprochement."

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: The Egyptian political line, since Jordan couragously restored relations between Egypt and Jordan, has been aimed at further rapprochement between Jordan and the Palestinians.

The foreign minister said that Egypt regards the recent PNC meeting as a principal turning point in the situation. Dr 'Abd al-Majid saluted the Palestinian and Jordanian brothers for their courage and arriving at a common formula, which will undoubtedly lead to a just and honorable peace in the Middle East.

Asked whether he believes there is a change in the second Reagan administration's attitude toward the Middle East compared with the first administration's, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: I can say that the second administration is not subject to some influences as was the case during the first. At the beginning of the second administration there are undoubtedly a few signs that give us some hope for the achievement of peace in the area.

Asked whether he thinks that the recent Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is regarded, as some commentators think, as an implicit Palestinian recognition of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and whether Israel will reciprocate by a move of its own, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that there should be no rush. Let us wait and see what will happen, and then will talk about it, he said.

Asked about the Saudi monarch's current visit to the United States and his meeting with U.S. President Reagan, the foreign minister said: We hope His Majesty King Fahd's visit will be successful. There is no doubt that His Majesty King Fahd's desire to achieve peace and stability in the area is the same as that of the Arab leaders.

Mideast Peace, Israeli Ties

NC131805 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Paris, 13 Feb (MENA) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt believes any turn toward peace and a solution to the Middle East problem should be welcomed and appreciated, since everyone in the region needs peace. This is particularly true of the Lebanese and the Palestinians, and the appreciation I mentioned includes my special appreciation for the recent Palestinian-Jordanian step, which Egypt was eager to bring about.

Answering a question at a news conference today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt cannot change UN Security Council Resolution 242, since it was unanimously approved by the council. He said that the resolution includes two principles: 1) The inadmissibility of acquiring territory through war. 2) The settlement of international disputes by peaceful means. In our view, these principles represent the resolution's strength.

The foreign minister added: Egypt believes the resolution's weakness lies in its reference to the refugee problem. That problem was discussed in 1967, and no proposal was made to the United Nations at that time on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

According to Dr 'Abd al-Majid, when the Israelis signed the Camp David Accord, that agreement included a provision on the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, namely, their right to self-determination. The Arab world must realize this, and it is the Egyptian position.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt will never interfere with the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking and that it has not, and will not shed Palestinian blood. Egypt is proud of this. He noted that Egypt is committed to the Rabat Arab resolution that describes the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative. This comes despite the fact that certain Arab states have withdrawn their approval of this resolution.

On Syria's position toward the peace process, the foreign minister said: We hope that Syria will join the peace process and play its role in establishing peace. Syria's absence is very painful to us. We do not oppose Syria; we regard her as a partner in the peace process. However, we do not agree with her method of dealing with the Palestinian question.

On the U.S. role in the peace process, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: Undoubtedly, President Reagan's second term will give the United States more freedom of movement than it had during his first term, since he will not be influenced by electoral considerations. However, the responsibility rests with the Arabs.

He said that the Arabs have begun to face their responsibility. Before we demand that the United States take a position, we, as the Arab side, must unify our stand. Such a unification of positions is apparent in the recent Jordanian-Palestinian step in Amman, which Egypt supports. Other Arab states and leaders may support this step, particularly Saudi Arabia's King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who is currently visiting Washington.

On U.S. aid to Egypt, the foreign minister said the United States has not refused to help Egypt. As for the increased American military aid to Israel, this is due to the special nature of U.S.-Israeli relations.

On the situation in southern Lebanon, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt condemned Israel's invasion and its practices in the south. Egypt still regards the invasion of southern Lebanon as Israel's

greatest mistake. Egypt's position is firm and clear. It calls for Israel's complete withdrawal from Lebanon, not merely an imaginary one.

As for Egyptian-Libyan relations, the foreign minister said that Egypt harbors no enmity toward the Libyan people. They are our neighbors and we have strong relations. All we ask is that the Libyan leadership be objective in its relations with Egypt.

Foreign Minister 'Abd Al-Majid Visits Paris

For French and Egyptian reportage on the visit of Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to Paris, including his talks with French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas on the upcoming visit of President Mubarak to France, see the France section of the 13 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

'Abd Al-Majid Returns From Paris Visit

NC132214 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid arrived in Cairo from Paris tonight after a 12-day tour that took him to Britain, the United States, and France.

In an arrival statement, 'Abd al-Majid said he will submit a report to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the results of his 3-nation tour. He said that he held a number of meetings in Britain with Prime Minister Thatcher, Foreign Secretary Howe, Defense Secretary Heseltine, and several British ministers. He also met with members of Parliament. He described his tour as very useful.

'Abd al-Majid said that he met with Vice President George Bush in Washington. On behalf of President Mubarak, he invited Bush to visit Egypt. The vice president accepted. He noted that he met with National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane and with the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees.

He added: We demanded that the U.S. Administration give us the same treatment it gives Israel in terms of aid. They promised to consider this and reply. He also mentioned his meetings in France with External Relations Minister Roland Dumans; Catherine Lalumiere, secretary of state to the Ministry of External Relations for European Affairs; and Christian Nucci, minister delegate to the Ministry of External Relations for cooperation and development. He said that the general purpose of his tour was to prepare for President Mubarak's trip in March.

Jordan's Al-Fayiz Continues Visit to Cairo

Comments on PLO Agreement

NC131908 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA) — People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub today received 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, who is currently visiting Egypt with a parliamentary delegation.

Following the meeting, Al-Fayiz said that Jordan is constantly trying to reduce Arab differences and to achieve solidarity among the Arab countries. In this regard the Jordanian speaker recalled that King Husayn ventured to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt out of an absolute belief that Arabs belong to Egypt and that Egypt belongs to the Arabs.

Without a Jordanian-PLO agreement, no solution will be found to the Palestinian problem, Al-Fayiz said. He added that Jordan and the PLO have agreed on the necessity of a complete Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories and the full restoration of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, as defined by UN resolutions.

Jordan will vehemently try to make the Arabs live up to their responsibilities, because it is only through Arab solidarity that the Palestinian problem can be solved. Arabs should reach an understanding on seeking a just solution to the Palestinian problem. Even in the case of a peaceful settlement, he said, such an understanding is needed. The absence of an Arab understanding will preclude efforts in this respect.

Egypt, Al-Fayiz said, is the true Arab striking force. Its historical stature is as much a part of the present and future as it was of the past. We are pinning great hopes on Egypt, he said. The Jordanian speaker noted that his country is in full agreement with Egypt, and added that he hopes it will reach a similar agreement with the rest of our Arab brothers. In this context, Al-Fayiz pointed to the talks that King Husayn is currently holding with the Algerian president. He said: We hope Algeria will agree on the same line so that we will be able to solve the Palestinian problem. Al-Fayiz concluded by expressing hope that the efforts made by King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak will lead to a genuine Arab solidarity.

People's Assembly speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub made a similar statement, saying that an Arab rapprochement was put in motion by the daring step King Husayn took when he restored diplomatic relations with Egypt. This rapprochement, Al-Mahjub noted, is taking its course and will yield fruit. A very important step, Al-Mahjub said, is Jordan's rapprochement with the PLO. Egypt gives its blessing to any formula reached by the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, he added.

Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub described the recent agreement between Jordan and the PLO as a propitious step to break the deadlock in which the Arab cause had been caught for a long time. Egypt and Jordan are both vigilant on Arab and Palestinian issues. Egypt, the Egyptian speaker said, has sacrificed much in defense of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Egypt did not fight or negotiate for Sinai alone but for the Palestinian cause, he added.

In conclusion, Rif'at al-Mahjub thanked the Jordanian king, people, and Government for the efforts they are exerting to achieve Arab solidarity and unison. There will be more cooperation to come between Egypt and Jordan in all fields, particularly between the Egyptian People's Assembly and the Jordanian House of Representatives, al-Mahjub said.

Attends Dinner Banquet
NC132244 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA) — People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub has emphasized the importance of the agreement concluded between Jordan and the PLO, describing it as representing an important step toward solving the Palestine question.

He also stressed the importance of the time factor in restoring Arab solidarity, noting that any delay in this will not be in favor of the Arab cause.

Al-Mahjub was speaking at a dinner banquet he gave at the Hilton Hotel tonight in honor of the visiting Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz. In his speech he called on Arabs who are seeking good to support the agreement.

The banquet was attended by speaker of the Consultative Council Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim and several members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council.

In his speech, 'Akif al-Fayiz stressed that Egypt will remain the light of knowledge and progress for the Arab nation and that the restoration of relations between Egypt and Jordan represents a recognition by Jordan of all that Egypt has given and of its affiliation to the Arab nation under the leadership of President Mubarak who is eager to safeguard Arab rights.

Al-Fayzi empahsized that the Palestinian people's interest is also that of Jordan and that this is the destiny of the two peoples. He said: Jordan is eager to safeguard the freedom of the Palestinian decision. Therefore, Jordan hosted the recent PNC meeting. Jordan is prepared to participate with the PLO in any attempt to solve the Palestine question while affirming that it will not give up the occupied territory, including Jerusalem.

UK Chief of Staff Talks With Al-'Urabi 13 Feb
NC131601 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA) — Military talks were held today at the Armed Forces Headquarters between Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi and UK Chief of Staff Edwin Bramall, who arrived in Cairo yesterday. Major General Salah al-Din 'Abd al-Halim, chief of the operations room; Major General Kamal Abu al-'Azayim, the Defense Ministry's secretary general; the Air Force and infantry chiefs of staff; and members of the UK military delegation were also present.

Following the talks, Al-'Urabi said that several issues concerning military cooperation were discussed. These included arms exports to Egypt, joint production of military spare parts, and the use of British military technology in improving the production of planes and other Egyptian weapons, and in developing the Egyptian Navy.

Lieutenant General al-'Urabi added that the subject of cooperation in the field of training was also raised, and that they examined the feasibility of sending Egyptian military students to England for higher studies.

Ghali Briefed on Relations With Israel
NC131842 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of rs, received a report today from Muhammad Basyuni, minister plenipotentiary and Egypt's charge d'affaires in Tel Aviv. The report dealt with Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, conditions in the occupied West Bank, and bilateral relations. Basyuni arrived in Cairo yesterday on a short working visit and will leave tomorrow.

Commentary Views PLO-Jordanian Agreement
NC131521 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Commentary by Hasah Fu'ad: "The Palestinian Problem Cannot Remain Unresolved"]

[Text] The agreement announced yesterday between Jordan and the PLO is the result of years of sincere effort. Since Egypt signed the peace accords in 1979, the major concern of PLO officials visiting Cairo was how to produce a joint Palestinian-Jordanian formula for a peaceful regional settlement, and for an honorable solution to the Palestinian problem. Now, as before, Palestinians look to Cairo as the capital that sacrificed its best sons on the battlefield, sparing nothing for the sake of the Palestinian problem.

Egypt's commitment to peace in the Middle East has never overshadowed its interest in the Palestinian problem. On the contrary, Egypt has redoubled its efforts to safeguard Palestinian rights. These rights might well be lost at the hands of certain Arab regimes which believe that the problem should be solved by future generations and that it can wait indefinitely.

Since President Husni Mubarak assumed office, he has given priority to the Palestinian problem in his meetings with foreign heads of state and senior officials, and in all regional or international conferences attended by Egypt. His upcoming visit to the United States, scheduled for next month, will mark yet another phase in Egypt's efforts to realize the Palestinian people's aspirations for a state on their national soil.

When Jordan decided to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt last September, all sincere Arabs welcomed this move. The Palestinians were particularly glad to see friendly ties renewed between the two sisterly countries at a time when antagonism and hatred seemed to be the dominant features of Arab relations.

President Mubarak has met King Husayn three times since relations were restored, and delegations at all levels have been exchanged . Cairo is preparing for the fourth Mubarak-Husayn meeting near the end of the month.

Despite the fact that the details of the Jordanian-PLO agreement announced yesterday remain undisclosed, the mere fact that the

two parties have agreed on a joint course of political action is encouraging. This step should be welcomed by all Arab countries. Mubarak described the agreement as a good step in the right direction, and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said the agreement will pave the way for a movement based on the international legal framework created by the UN resolutions on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Therefore, this joint Jordanian-Palestinian move should be discussed at the upcoming Arab summit in order to formulate a supporting Arab position. This agreement, if supported by all Arabs without exception — something we hope will happen — can serve as a form of leverage on the United States. The U.S. would then force Israel to accept Palestinian demands and stop the current wave of settlements that threatens to change the Arab character of the occupied territories.

Needless to say, once the Arabs agree on a definite plan of action, they have enormous clout in international affairs and with the superpowers. When they disagree, no one pays any attention to them. This is their chance to support the joint Palestinian-Jordanian move. Let them prove themselves in this test. It is high time they act together, not merely for the sake of Arab unity, but for the Palestinian problem, which cannot, and should not, remain unresolved.

AL-AKHBAR Views Israeli Policy in S. Lebanon

PM131529 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 11 Feb 85 p 5

[Editorial: "The Dirty Hands in Lebanon"]

[Text] Yesterday's serious flareup in Lebanon prior to the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Sidon was actually expected. It was inconceivable that Israel would withdraw from one inch of Lebanese territory without setting it on fire. Yesterday's events were a prelude to the big fire it plans to light in the south before withdrawing from Sidon and the remainder of occupied Lebanese territory.

The explosions that occurred in Sidon were part of the scheme aimed at provoking the rival factions in the south and causing bloody and terrible fighting soon after the Israeli forces' withdrawal. The two explosions that occurred in Beirut and Tripoli served the same objective. In brief, Israel wants the strife in that miserable country to continue indefinitely. Israel intensified its dirty campaign in Lebanon with its raid on the Al-Biqa' region as if to say that its operations in Lebanon would never stop.

Israel, however, is not solely to blame. The Lebanese sides that help Israel are largely to blame for this complex process, whichis destroying Lebanon and its people. These sides should certainly be condemned and held responsible for the destruction of the heritage, people, and homeland.

In these difficult times we appeal to the Lebanese people to turn their backs on everyone who is opposed to Lebanon's unity and sovereignty and who harbors bad intentions toward it. That is not all that is required, but it would be a positive contribution to confronting this plot.

Until the Israeli withdrawal, which is taking place under the heroic blows of the national resistance, is completed, Israel will continue to cause conflagration in that country. It will do its best to undermine Lebanon's morale. By combining all factions, the Lebanese people would prove their unity in the face of this challenge if they defended their country's territorial integrity and future with all their might.

AL-AHRAM Comments on Relations With Israel

NC130610 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA) — In Thursday's edition, *AL-AHRAM* comments on the complaint by Israeli officials that Egypt is making no real effort to improve relations between the two neighboring countries. The paper says that officials who voice such a complaint do not realize that Egypt cannot forget or relinquish its fraternal relations and close ties with the Arab states simply because it has decided upon peace as its strategic goal.

The paper adds: Egypt also cannot overlook the suppressive actions being carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities on the West Bank and in south Lebanon. Egypt cannot forget the sons of the occupied Arab territory who are exposed to gunfire and detention on a daily basis; they are our brothers, and we share their feelings and their pain.

The paper continues: We are seeking peace for our country and the entire Middle East, but prerequisite to that must be Israel's full and unconditional withdrawal from all Lebanese territory, the Palestinians achievement of their legitimate rights, and establishment of their own state on their own territory, within the context of a just and lasting solution. Egypt cannot support peace for Israel while watching its settlements expand daily in occupied Arab territory. There are more than 100 such settlements, a fact that threatens to change the Arab identity of that territory.

President Decides To Release Iranian POW's

JN132110 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has decided to release the Iranian prisoners who fell in the hands of our heroic forces during last night's attack on Iranian troop concentrations by the heroes of the 434th Brigade from the II Army Corps. An official source said in a statement to INA that President Saddam Husayn has given the Iranian prisoners the choice to remain in Iraq, return to Iran, or to leave for any other country of their choice.

Spokesman Denies Attack on Iranian Nuclear Plant

JN141114 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1058 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA) — Iraq has denied Iranian claims that Iraqi fighter aircraft attacked the Iranian Bushehr nuclear plant installation the day before yesterday. In a statement to INA today, a military spokesman said on that day the Iraqi Air Force only attacked two maritime targets near Khark Island and Iranian troop concentrations on Iraqi borders. The spokesman said that Iraq remains committed to the nonshelling of any civilian installations in Iran.

Turkish Finance Minister Continues Visit

Meets Various Ministers

TA131921 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Finance and Customs Minister Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin who is in Baghdad for an official visit has begun his contacts. He met Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi today. They assessed economic issues and activities concerning the second oil pipeline to be laid between the two countries. Alptemocin also met with Hasan 'Ali al-Amiri, trade minister and a member of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, as well as that Iraq's ministers of transport and agriculture. Tomorrow Alptemocin will be received by First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan.

Meets With Taqi

JN131825 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The Iraqi-Turkish committee concerned with building a new oil pipeline across Turkish territory met this morning. The Iraqi side was headed by Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi and the Turkish side by Finance and Customs Minister Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin. The talks reviewed the progress of work by technical organs in both countries on carrying out the project under an agreement signed last year. Several Iraqi and Turkish officials and the Turkish ambassador in Baghdad also took part in the committee's work.

Meets 'Abd al-Rahim

JN131651 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA) — Minister of Transport and Communications 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd al-Rahim met with Turkish Minister of Fianance and Customs Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin and his delegation here this morning. They reviewed spheres of cooperation between the two neighboring countries and ways to promote transportation and communications.

Briefs

Ramadan Receives Swiss Ambassador—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, this morning received Marcel Disler, the Swiss ambassador in Baghdad, on the occasion of the termination of his tour of work. [Text] [*Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Feb 85 JN*]

Tahir Hikmat Meets With U.S. Delegation

JN131303 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Amman — Tahir Hikmat, culture, tourism, and antiquities minister and acting information minister, met with the U.S. Congressional delegation in his office this morning. Hikmat reviewed with the U.S. delegation the situation in the Middle East in light of the recent developments. He emphasized the need for the United States to embark on a positive and effective role to solve the Palestine question and adopt a balanced policy in the Middle East — a policy that will help achieve a just and acceptable settlement that will guarantee the Palestinian people's rights.

The minister explained to the delegation the dangers of the current stalemate the Middle East is facing and the impossibility of allowing matters to remain as they are now. He also explained that if the current situation continues it will lead to great confrontations in the region that will have negative effects on stability in the Middle East, particularly regarding U.S. interests in the region.

After the review presented by the minister, a discussion was held on questions raised by the U.S. Congressmen on the topics that were presented and on the Middle East problem in general.

The U.S. congressional delegation visited the Buq'ah refugee camp at noon today and was briefed by camp personalities on the living conditions and problems that camp citizens are facing, due to the occupation of their lands and their expulsion from their homes by Israeli occupation authorities. The delegation was also briefed on the services offered by UNRWA and this agency's attempt to reduce these services.

Arab League Requests Palestinian Passports

JN140807 Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 14-20 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] The Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has received an Arab League report requesting the issuing of a Palestinian passport. The passport is to be sponsored by the Arab League and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and is intended to help Palestinians facing travel and other difficulties. But, the report said, the passport should not in any way affect the rights and privileges those Palestinians have gained while residing in the host countries.

Energy Report Rules Out Nuclear Power Plant

JN140723 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14-15 Feb 85 p 3

[By P.V. Vivekanand, special to the *JORDAN TIMES*]

[Text] Amman — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), with technical assistance from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and in close coordination with various departments, has finalised a study on Jordan's energy requirements until the year 2000.

A draft final report on the outcome of the study was presented to various departments concerned with energy generation and distribution in Jordan at a meeting at the JEA headquarters here Tuesday.

A three-member delegation from the IAEA, which offered technical advice to the national team preparing the study, was present during the meeting.

No details of the recommendations included in the study were available, but according to a JEA spokesman "the final report conforms with what has been projected by the JEA and other concerned departments about Jordan's energy requirements until the year 1990 and it will help us very much in planning for the years after 1990."

The IAEA, a specialised U.N. agency with 112 member states, provided the technical expertise needed to draw up the study under the agency's provisions for free technical assistance to member countries.

"We initiated the process of conducting the study in late 1983 following a specific request by the World Bank with whom the IAEA works in close coordination," said Mr. Jean-Pierre Charpentier, head of the delegation currently in Jordan.

"We are most glad that every phase of the study was completed according to a predetermined schedule and I believe that it was the result of very close cooperation and coordination among the concerned governmental departments and agencies in Jordan."

No figures were available for the cost of the study, but the IAEA's contribution, including the travel and accommodation costs of its technical teams which visited Jordan several times during the course of the study, was free of cost.

In its turn, the JEA paid the costs of its technical experts' travel to the IAEA headquarters in Vienna and other related expenses.

The focus of the study is the long-term goal in planning Jordan's energy requirements and recommendations for appropriate investments in infrastructure and other sectors to achieve the projected goal with the minimum possible cost, taking into consideration the country's natural resources and industrial development and other relevant factors.

No Nuclear Power Plant

Mr. Charpentier emphasised that "there is no consideration whatsoever of setting up a nuclear power plant in Jordan."

He explained that "purely technical reasons are behind such a conclusion, for Jordan does not need such a facility."

"The setting up of a nuclear power plant is only warranted in countries with national power grids of a minimum of 4,000 to 5,000 megawatts," Mr. Charpentier said.

"In Jordan, where the present grid is about 750 megawatts, and even after taking into consideration the projections until the year 2000, it will not go more than 2,000 megawatts," he continued.

"Therefore, even in another 15 years' time Jordan's requirement will not reach the minimum level that would justify the setting up of a nuclear power plant."

The IAEA role in drawing up the study, Mr. Charpentier explained, was mainly in training Jordanian personnel to make use of advanced methods in collecting and classifying information and providing the necessary metrology to process the information and come up with accurate, economically feasible recommendations.

"Our role in the process is over now," said Mr. Charpentier, whose team includes Mr. Vladimir M. Urezchenko and Mr. Pablo E. Molina Maggi.

"The national team will take it up from now, and we are confident that they are quite competent to conduct similar studies independently in the future."

The final form of the study is expected to be ready by May/June 1985, a JEA spokesman said.

"The draft final report has been presented to the concerned departments, which will study its recommendations and adopt appropriate action," he added.

Briefs

Arab Seismological Stations— Contacts are underway to launch a project to establish a network of seismological stations in Arab countries to be connected with a seismological institute in Algiers. The first stage will require the establishment of the institute in Algeria and the second will work on modernizing the monitoring stations in Jordan and seven other Arab countries. [Text] [*Amman THE JERUSALEM Star in English 14-20 Feb 85 p 1 JN*]

Railway Revenues Rise— Amman (PETRA) — Revenues of the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) soared from JD50,000 in 1975 to JD7 million in 1984, according to Minister of Transport Farhi 'Ubayd. He said that the transporation of phosphate by rail rose from 36,000 tonnes in 1975 to 3,153,000 tonnes in 1984. The minister added that the corporation is currently renewing 65 kilometres of the railway line between Ma'an and Batn al-Ghul. The corporation is also floating a tender for similar work on 102 kilometres of railway in order to increase the capacity of the railway by an additional one million tonnes. [Text] [*Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14-15 Feb 85 p 3 JN*]

Voice of Lebanon: Kidnapped American Escapes

NC141024 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] It has been learned in Ba'labakk that the American television network CNN correspondent managed to escape from his kidnappers last night, and that he went to the Syrian intelligence headquarters in Al-Biqa' at 0200 today. The American correspondent was kidnapped in Beirut in March 1984.

AFP Details Escape

AU141151 Paris AFP in English 1113 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Beirut, Feb 14 (AFP) — Jeremy Levin, the correspondent of the U.S. television company Cable News Network who was kidnapped on March 7 last year in Beirut, escaped last night, reports from the Ba'labakk region of Lebanon's eastern Al-Biqa' valley said today.

Mr. Levin, apparently in good health, but obviously exhausted, walked for two hours until he reached the Ba'labakk headquarters of the Syrian intelligence services in the Syrian-controlled Al-Biqa' valley, the reports said.

He reached the Syrian headquarters situated 90 kilometers (55 miles) northeast of Beirut at 2:00 a.m. (0000 GMT), but did not give any details on where he had been held, nor on his kidnappers and how he managed to escape.

Mr. Levin had been abducted as he was on his way to his office in West Beirut's Hotel Commodore.

'Over 40' Israeli Casualties Reported in Sidon

NC141312 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] At 1100 today, several Israeli tanks set up a barrier in Harat Sayda, near the Arab bakery, and began provoking and insulting the citizens. Upon the Israeli forces' return to Tallat Mar Ilyas, national resistance fighters ambushed them in the area of Al-Ta'mir, detonating an explosive device containing over 100 kg of TNT. The sound of the explosion was heard in the southernmost part of [word indistinct] and in Iqlim al-Kharrub to the north. Over 10 Israeli vehicles were destroyed and over 40 Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded.

Immediately afterward, the Israeli forces carried out a wide-scale search operation in the Sidon area in a state of fear and hysteria.

Israeli Forces Besiege Burj Rahhal in South

NC141035 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] At 0700 today, the occupation forces surrounded Burj Rahhal with about 60 tanks, but have so far not been able to enter the village. A confrontation took place between the enemy forces and the residents, who burned tires and set up stone barriers.

UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel has confirmed the siege of the village. He said that 140 people have been arrested by the occupation forces.

Karami on Cabinet Discussion, Israeli Withdrawal

NC131250 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Feb 85

["Text" of interview with Prime Minister Rashid Karami to newsmen following the 13 February Cabinet meeting held at B'abda Presidential Palace — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Karami] His excellency the president reviewed in detail the results of yesterday's visit to Damascus to congratulate His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. The Cabinet also discussed the question of kidnapped persons, and affirmed its determination to look into the fate of the kidnapped persons, case by case, on the basis of submitted documents.

It has been decided to convene a Cabinet meeting tomorrow, Thursday, at 1200 to discuss the social and economic conditions. It has been decided to invite the General Workers Federation to hear its views.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, there is the issue of the south and the implementation of the first stage of the Israeli withdrawal. What are your latest contacts in this regard?

[Karami] The reports received about the south, Sidon, and its suburbs are good and reassuring. On the official level, all arrangements and measures are being implemented as planned. Therefore, we are confident that the withdrawals will be carried out, that security will prevail, and that all the citizens will copperate in their own interest and benefit.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, in addition to the question of security, there is also the economic and development question. Is there anything new with regard to the plans raised, and how much has discussion of such plans progressed?

[Karami] The previous Cabinet decisions in the various fields, which aim at promoting work and productivity, ensuring the rights of the treasury, curbing the rise in prices, and dealing with the dollar issue are being implemented, and the results are beginning to appear.

13 February Cabinet Meeting

NC131627 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1515 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] In the news today, President Amin al-Jumayyil told the Cabinet that he felt Syria was determined to help Lebanon economically, as well to support the efforts to rescue Lebanon from its present crisis. The president said that he and Prime Minister Rashid Karami came away with this impression after their short visit to Damascus yesterday, during which they met at length with President Hafiz al-Asad and other senior Syrian leaders.

The regular weekly Cabinet meeting was chaired by President al-Jumayyil. Public Works Minister Walid Junblatt and Minister of State Nabih Birri were both absent. The president briefed the members of the Cabinet on the visit he and Prime Minister Karami undertook to Damascus to congratulate President al-Asad on his re-election for a third term of office. President al-Jumayyil noted the talks with Syrian leaders had focused on security matters involving Tripoli, Beirut, and the south, and on steps to be taken to maintain law and order.

The president indicated that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam would be making contacts to help facilitate the takeover of positions vacated by Israel. The Cabinet expressed confidence that the withdrawal would take place without provoking clashes. The Cabinet then turned its attention to economic affairs. Education Minister Dr Salim al-Huss emphasized that the situation had (?improved) with a drop in the demand for dollar [word indistinct]. He expressed hope that drastic solutions would be adopted soon. The Cabinet decided to hold a special emergency session tomorrow to discuss economic and social questions. The Cabinet then discussed the problem of kidnapped persons. Retired General Michel Quraytim briefed the Cabinet on action taken so far by the committee, and he reported on differences within the (?committee). Acting Interior Minister Joseph Skaf referred to the continued abduction of Mr Sami Rababi, a senior Middle East Airlines official, despite the repeated efforts to secure his release. Minister Skaf also briefed the Cabinet on developments in Sidon while security forces were already taking over positions in the city vacated by the Israeli forces and their militia allies.

Birri Misses Cabinet Session; Meets Envoys

NC131716 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1515 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Minister of State for South Lebanon Nabi Birri followed up developments in the south from his UNESCO office today and did not attend the Cabinet meeting. During the day Minister Birri met with the American ambassador in Beirut and with the representatives of the European Community to Lebanon to discuss the grave situation in the south.

Minister Birri then met with the Italian charge d'affaires who later said that he had received a letter from the minister of state concerning the [words indistinct] contacts made with the Italian Government through the embassy. He said that he discussed Israeli actions in the south with the Lebanese leader. Minister Birri also conferred with Vice Speaker [of the Chamber of Deputies] Munir Abu Fadil on questions related to south Lebanon.

Minister Birri then met with a delegation representing the town of Tura, which stressed that efforts be exerted to secure the lifting of the siege imposed on the town by Israeli occupation forces there. Minister Birri later said that he did not attend the Cabinet meeting because he had already arranged to meet with the ambassadors to consult with them on issues related to south Lebanon. He said that he had instructed the head of the South Lebanon Council to dispatch aid to the town of Tura and other parts of the south.

In the afternoon Minister Birri described his talks with the ambassadors as part of an effort to draw attention to the Israeli attacks on Jabal 'Amil Vocational School and other humanitarian institutions, and its deliberate destruction of orphanage facilities, and its blockade of highways and the siege of towns in the south.

The minister of state said that the Israeli forces were mounting [words indistinct] oppression against the children and the teachers of the institution which, until the Israeli attack early this month, was a flourishing school, vocational center, and orphanage. The occupation troops have reduced much of its facilities to shambles. Minister Birri called on the world communities to condemn such action and expressed his dismay over the lack of public concern. Minister Birri described his meeting last night with Ministers Salim al-Huss and Walid Junblatt as very good, and he indicated that the discussions had centered on ways of activating reform efforts, closing illegal ports, and dealing with problems facing the people of south Lebanon.

MONDAY MORNING Interviews Nabih Birri

NC140900 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 11-17 Feb 85 pp 18-23

[Interview with Nabih Birri, minister of state for south lebanon and reconstruction affairs, by Journalist Nadim Abu Ghannam on 4 February — place not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu Ghannam] Are you confident, in the event of a partial Israeli withdrawal, that there will be no massacres, as was the case in the mountains, and what is the reason for your confidence?

[Birri] Our confidence is based on the information we have at present, and on the past history of the south, with its long record of harmony and coexistence, and on the absence of any sectarian strife in the south. So far [the] Amal movement has been counting on the fact that the situation in the south is the expression of the true Christian-Islamic unified position. This has been demonstrated by a number of factors and events, including the total response to the strikes called for by Amal joint statements issued repeatedly, the recent wave of arrests by the Israelis in Christian villages of Christian figures, and the integrated unity in Sidon and its surroundings and in the areas from which Israel might withdraw.

As such, I can say, on the basis of the available information, I am confident that there will be no trouble whatsoever. We have confidence, based on the history of the south and its present stand, that all attempts to provoke strife will be thwarted. On the other hand, we must keep in mind the extensive experience of Israel in this field.

[Abu Ghannam] How do you evaluate the latest round of meetings in Damascus, during which you and ministers Salim al-Huss and Walid Junblatt, along with Prime Minister Karami, met together and with Syrian officials?

[Birri] Discussions during these meetings actually revolved mostly around security/political themes, rather than around

purely political subjects. In other words, attention was mainly focussed on what is termed "political security" We discussed the (security) plan for the coast and Iqlim al-Kharrub, we discussed plans for the period after the Israeli withdrawal, and we discussed plans for the coastal highway leading to Tripoli. We also discussed the plan for the Beirut-Damascus highway through Bhandun, and the security situation in Beirut, particularly West Beirut.

Satisfaction was expressed with some of these plans, while there was a general determination to press ahead with efforts to work out all details of others plans. There was satisfaction with what had been and is being accomplished in Iqlim al-Kharrub, and along the southern coastal highway, and there was concern about the issue of Sidon in view of the need for all Army capabilities to be ready for action. It was unanimously agreed that there was no alternative to the Lebanese Army, and that all must help the Lebanese Army to move towards the south.

On the issue of Tripoli, it was agreed that the coordination committee begin meeting, and in fact it was supposed to hold a second meeting today (February 4), but I do not know if the meeting actually took place.

Agreement was reached on the handling of security duties on the Beirut-Bhamdoun section of the highway by the First Brigade of the Suq al-Gharb area, after the introduction of some changes. Results of this agreement could become evident within ten days.

There was agreement that, in the case of West Beirut, there was a need for stronger political coverage to back up the Lebanese Army, and the security forces. We agreed on the fact that we should not be overly-relaxed because of the improvements that have taken place in West Beirut, but should rather seize the opportunity to straighten out other matters as well. This is the gist of what was discussed at the meetings in Damascus.

[Abu Ghannam] You were quoted in a press interview today as saying orders had been issued to security forces to crack down on violations of laws and regulations.

[Birri] In the interview I asked about the reasons for the events of the past year, and what had been going on since February 6, 1984, all the way up to a short while ago. We had very reliable information that the Army was not adequately equipped to carry out its role in Beirut, and that the Internal Security Forces were not required to take the action that was needed. This was no secret. There were 650 members of the gendarmes and 500 municipal night watchmen in Beirut, but we rarely saw one [of] them. There has been an improvement in this situation in recent days, as anybody can tell.

We have read in recent days of the arrest of a variety of criminals, and a crackdown on crime. We have noticed that this is happening these days, even though no such thing happened in the months that came after February 6. What is the difference? What has happened to bring about this change? Nothing has really taken place except that there is a new impetus and drive for the security forces to be seen.

This is actually one of the reasons that prompted the resignation of Minister Salim al-Huss, because he felt that there was no serious determination to come to grips with the situation, and that there were deliberate obstructions.

The same holds true on the issue of ports. The Army, security forces, and customs officials are supposed to fulfill their functions in all ports. We could describe the situation in the Beirut port as good, but the Juniyah port is in the hands of illegal forces. The situation is also unsettled in Tripoli, even though we had reached clear agreement on handing over responsibility for the sea and the ports to the Army. All these ports are supposed to be under the control of the regular legitimate authorities. We again agreed on this at our last Cabinet meeting, and efforts are supposed to have been intensified to arrange for the restoration of the control of all ports to the legal authorities. This is imperative in view of the decline in the purchasing power of the Lebanese pound. It is not that the dollar is so high, it is the pound which is so low. As the famous Lebanese poet-philospher Mikha'il Na'imah said: "Beauty was asked 'who has built your house?' it replied: 'Ugliness.' Were it not for ugliness, there would be no beauty; were it not for the mountain, there would be no valley."

The weakness of the pound is behind the sharp rise in the dollar exchange rate. It is lack of confidence in the Lebanese pound that has led to the sharp rise of the dollar. How can we create confidence in the Lebanese pound? We need revenues. If our main sources of revenue, namely the ports and customs, are not able to function, how can we create any confidence. After all, Lebanon does not produce oil.

[Abu Ghannam] Could we say that the state is conniving with the those involved, or is it merely incapable of doing anything?

[Birri] There is certainly too much leniency and too little firmness in decisions when it comes to action. You hear one thing, you see something else.

[Abu Ghannam] Who is responsible for this state of affairs?

[Birri] Morally and officially, it is the responsibility of the government. However, we are all aware of the prevailing conditions in the country. Unless every Cabinet member fully discharges his duties, and unless each minister feels that a Cabinet decision is his personal responsibility, nothing will be accomplished, irrespective of Cabinet decisions.

[Abu Ghannam] You recently stated on TV that Beirut port revenues reached 66 million pounds, only to drop to 6 million. Why was the state able to increase revenues within a short period to 66 million pounds, but then allowed them to drop to 6 million?

[Birri] The reason is simple — the state was strict in the beginning, but later became lax. Likewise, when we say that the Army or the security forces are going to take over security duties in West Beirut, everything goes fine for the first few days. Within a short time, however, we are back to where we started, due to lack of implementation or follow-up.

I am responsible, for example, for the failure of the Juniyah [port] to close. I am responsible in my capacity as a Cabinet member.

and this is part of my public responsibility. However, in my private capacity I am not responsible, because I don't think that Amal movement is expected to take over control of that port. If the issue involved the airport, and if the customs personnel were not doing their job there, then I would be responsible in both my public and private capacities, because I can somewhat influence security matters in and around the airport.

Why is it that these violations are not taking place at the airport, and are confined to ports? Simply because [the] Amal movement is abiding by both its public and private commitments, while others do not abide by their public and private commitments. Let us be clear on this issue, there is no point in hiding facts.

[Abu Ghannam] Is it the Army or the Phalangists?

[Birri] If the Army is not given the freedom of action, it cannot act. This is what is involved in "security by consent." I am referring to the Phalangists because they have not allowed the Army into the Juniyah port, and consequently the Army can do nothing. Let us be honest and stop trying to deceive the people.

[Abu Ghannam] Is it true that there is a real danger of a major battle in Iqlim al-Kharrub in view of reports that some of the fighters in West Beirut had moved there, and that militiamen of the Lebanese forces have been reinforced?

[Birri] No. The situation in Iqlim al-Kharrub and the coastal area is moving in the right direction at a normal pace. The 121st Battalion will be joining the 12th Brigade within 24 hours, taking up position in Al-Jiyah, and will be on full alert, in preparation for entry into Sidon and other areas evacuated by the Israeli occupation forces. All the southerners, and all the forces in the south are ready to help the Lebanese Army only.

[Abu Ghannam] Have the Socialists and the Phalangists withdrawn their fighters or are they still on the scene?

[Birri] According to my information, they have both withdrawn their forces, with the exception of those militiamen who are from the area. I realize that this is ambiguous, because it all hinges on the fact that these men say they are from the area and intend to stay. However, even people of the area are supposed to put their arms away. My information indicates that the coastal highway is open.

[Abu Ghannam] Do you have any figures on the number of men involved?

[Birri] Before I went to Damascus, there were 1,700 militiamen involved, 300 of whom were withdrawn. Later, we received reports from the security authorities that others were also withdrawn. The Iqlim committee is working hard on opening highways, and as I mentioned, the 121st Battalion has been deployed in Al-Jiyah. It seems that, God willing, the general situation is good.

[Abu Ghannam] Do you expect any clashes between the Socialists and the Phalangists?

[Birri] Not at all. If all will abide by the provisions of the security plan there would be no room for that.

[Abu Ghannam] If the Al-Naqurah talks break down without producing any results, do you think that the national resistance can alone liberate the south?

[Birri] The national resistance is the only card in the hands of Lebanon. The resistance will be enough, if it gets the needed support and adoption. So far, this official support and adoption has not been forthcoming, not in the full sense of the word. Lebanon must take the step of adopting the national resistance in the South as the only way to liberate the occupied lands. If and when talks are held, they should be held with this in mind, and should not, or obstruct of frustrate the resistance. [sentence as received]

[Abu Ghannam] How do you evaluate the relationship between Amal movement and the Socialists and the Phalangists?

[Birri] Amal movement has a long-standing alliance with the Socialists. The relationship with the Phalangists is a governmental relationship, in that we try to always meet in a relaxed atmosphere, which is in the best interests of all Lebanese. So far, unfortunately, there is no special relationship with the Phalangists.

[Abu Ghannam] Do you mean to say that such a relationship could develop?

[Birri] I said "unfortunately", which means that we have the desire to be open to all Lebanese groups, but on the basis of fundamental principles that must be agreed upon, namely, liberation, security, and political reform.

[Abu Ghannam] Do you think that the much-discussed international conference on the Middle East could be held in the near future, and could it be instrumental in separating the Lebanese crisis from the crisis of the region?

[Birri] This question requires a long answer, but I will try to be brief and to the point. The international conference is nowhere near. We are for the international conference, because it is wrong to deny any nation a role in the search for peace, how much more if that nation happens to be a superpower. However, I disagree with those who think that the convening of an international conference, or a failure to do so, would have any impact on the linkage of the Lebanese crisis with the Middle East conflict.

The Lebanese crisis has a separate solution, not separate results. In other words, it is possible to resolve the Lebanese crisis in isolation from the Middle East conflict. That would not only be in the best interests of Lebanon, but would also benefit the Palestinian cause because the Lebanese crisis has stolen the limelight from the Palestinian cause, thus pushing the Palestinian cause into the oblivion of "the other side of midnight." The solution to the Lebanese crisis would allow the spotlight to again be focussed, automatically, on the Palestine cause, and this would be true on all levels, including the international level and at the United Nations.

Those who attended the United Nations meetings this year are aware of the fact that only scanty attention was given to the Palestine cause for that reason. The resolving of the Lebanese crisis is therefore in the best interests of the Palestine cause as well as the cause of peace. If, however, the Lebanese crisis remains unsolved, there is fear that both it and the Palestine cause create other problems in the Arab region as a whole, not the least being cantons and religious statelets. In the event that such developments would take place, the predictions of Minister Junblatt on another ten years of fighting would come true.

[Abu Ghannam] Despite your successes in the past, why is it that you have not been successful recently in securing the release of Americans kidnapped in Lebanon?

[Birri] We in [the] Amal movement do not believe in such methods, especially the kidnapping of ordinary people (such as a journalist or a clergyman) and we thus try to secure their release through contacts and other efforts which we exert. On the other hand, we are well aware of how oppressive American policy is towards us, and we are opposed to American policies, which provide the material, moral political and strategic coverage for all that Israel does. We are aware of this hostile American attitude, but we always distinguish between the American individual and the American policies.

I tried, as you indicated, to secure the release of those kidnapped. We succeeded in the case of the AUB [American University-Beirut] professor, Frank Regier, and the French expert, but at other times we have failed, because of the lack of response or simply because we could not find or release them.

[Abu Ghannam] There is talk of an envoy coming to Lebanon to discuss the fate of the kidnapped Americans. Who would such an envoy meet with?

[Birri] Not me, for sure. There are five officials who are responsible for the affairs of kidnapped people.

[Abu Ghannam] How will the alliance that has recently been emerging between Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the PLO in confrontation to Syria possible affect Lebanon.

[Birri] It must be noted that the existing relationship between Lebanon and Syria is not a simple relationship of one state with another, neither one of neighbor with neighbor. It is a relationship based on history, destiny, a relationship which extends from the past into the future. Relationships between the two countries take on the form of blood ties, in fact many families are part-Syrian part-Lebanese, and the final religious judicial authorities of many Christians in Lebanon are based in Damascus.

If this alliance is emerging to oppose the Syrian position in Lebanon, it is up against a stone wall. There was supposed to be common support for the Syrian position, in view of the fact that Syria has been willing to throw all its weight on the Lebanese scene in a bid to restore national unity and unify and liberate Lebanon, and has adopted the reform approach. It is also a fact that the policy statement of the government is nearly a carbon copy of what was agreed upon in Lausanne under Syrian auspices.

I find it strange that while Syria is trying to do what it is doing in Lebanon, alliances are being set up to obstruct its work. What do they want as an alternative? These alliances are against the interests of the Lebanese people. Do they want cantons instead of national unity, sectarianism instead of reform, occupation instead of liberation, or do they want the Israeli option instead of the Arab option and solidarity with Syria?

Actually there is a big question mark, and a big exclamation mark around the positions of these outfits. The least the Arabs could do would be to back Syria. Their present position is really puzzling. Everybody knows that the present government would never have been formed, were it not for Syria. Every day there are new headaches for Syria, and many of Syria's top leaders are devoting much of their time and attention to the Lebanese issue.

[Abu Ghannam] This is your view as a Lebanese minister and leader, but could it not be that this alliance wants to plunge Syria deeper into the Lebanese morass in order to keep it preoccupied while they complete their own plans with Israel?

[Birri] I answered that question from a Lebaense viewpoint. Who is against this Syrian concern; the Phalangists, the president of the republic, Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, Rashid Karami, or Camille Sha'mun? Nobody is opposed. Since all the Lebanese are agreed on this issue, the Arabs should support it. In fact, they are trying to strike at Syria for other purposes because they do not want any voice to openly reject the plans being drawn up for the region.

Consequently, Lebanon is nothing more than a pretext. We as Lebanese are in agreement. In the past we were told to agree on something, this was a familiar message from Arab follow-up committees. Now that we have agreed on cooperation with Syria, within the framework of a national government and a policy statement which calls for reform, strangely enough they have stopped all support and dropped all aid. They have even refrained from extending any help to the struggling south, and they have even stopped buying crops and products of the south. This whole attitude and position raises a big question mark.

[Abu Qhannam] What has the present government, which includes such ministers as Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and Salim al-Huss accomplished other than expose wrongdoings and deviations, since it could not even stop port revenues from dropping from 66 million pounds to 6 million pounds, and has only managed to close some gaps here and there?

[Birri] On the governmental level we have scored a major success with the adoption of a unified position towards Israel. In fact, there is harmony on foreign issues in general.

I would like to know what could be expected in view of the fragmentation of the country, the moves in the south, and in view of religious and sectarian trends in the country, with a return to East and West Beirut and the dualism in the national body, with foot-dragging and stalling on the implementation of projects in most areas and fields. What was the alternative to our willingness to wait?

Under normal conditions, I have no right to be silent or to allow wrongdoing to pass unchallenged. I was supposed to stand up, declare that the existing situation was unacceptable, and resign from the Cabinet. In so doing, I would at least vindicate myself before God and my own conscience. This is exactly what Dr. al-Huss did. However, as I pointed out, one resignation would lead to the downfall of the government, and once this government is gone, what is the alternative. The continuation of the government in office at least kept alive the hope of liberation and reform.

I said at a press conference after the Al-Huss resignation that if I knew that the toppling of the government would rescue the nation, it would be treason for me to stay in office. We have to be practical. I said, and repeat, that I think daily of resignation, but I must take all these factors into consideration. I could easily resign, but what if that precipitates a full-blast crisis?

[Abu Ghannam] Your position might be logical, but don't you think it is being exploited in such cases as the issue of illegal ports, the closure of embassies and the blowing up of banks?

[Birri] I agree, but if we resign and pull out, and the nation is hit by real disasters, will you still ask the same question? In that event, you would cite remarks made at some press conference and tell me that I knew what would happen, so how could I explain my resignation despite that knowledge.

We must recognize these facts and accept certain situations. Some people wonder about agreement among the ministers, and question how could there be agreement when there are obvious deviations. Admittedly, we must stay on the alert, but at least we have managed to clamp down on many things that were going on under the previous government, which was far too easy-going. Despite our shortcomings, we have not managed to issue one legislative decree. Why not? So that we will not issue 161 decrees, as was the case with the Al-Wazzan government.

Minister Birri Leaves for Damascus Visit

NC131950 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs and minister of hydroelectric resources and justice, left Beirut for Damascus this evening to congratulate Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on his re-election.

During his visit, Minister Birri will hold several meetings with senior Syrian officials to discuss the political and security situation in Lebanon.

Karami, CSSR Envoy Discuss Economic Relations

NC131928 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami received Jaroslav Jakubec, Czechoslovak deputy minister of foreign trade, and the delegation accompanying him at his residence tonight. They reviewed the economic conditions in Lebanon as well as economic relations between the two countries. They also discussed the subject of the $50 million loan which Czechoslovakia has presented to Lebanon.

Karami, Bulgarian Official Discuss Situation

NC141030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami today conferred with the deputy Bulgarian foreign minister on the situation in Lebanon and in the region, and on the efforts Lebanon is exerting for the liberation of its territory and the achievement of national accord.

Swedish Defense Minister Leaves for Damascus

NC131817 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Swedish Defense Minister Anders Thunborg left Beirut for Damascus this evening. He was accompanied by the Swedish chief of staff and the other members of his delegation. During his 2-day visit, the Swedish defense minister met with a number of Lebanese officials and discussed the current situation in Lebanon and in the region with them.

The Swedish minister also inspected UNIFIL's Swedish contingent in the south, and met with the UNIFIL commander, General William Callaghan. They discussed UNIFIL's role and future.

Abu Nadir on Christians, Israeli Withdrawal

NC140718 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Fu'ad Abu Nadir has asserted that the Christians do not wish to live anywhere but in the Christian villages in the south where they currently reside. They cannot conceive of leaving Jazzin or other towns to live in Marj 'Uyun to protect Israel's borders, as has been rumored.

Abu Nadir offered a comparison between southern Lebanon and Mount Lebanon, noting that the atmosphere in the south differs from that prevailing on the mountain in the past. He said that there are many indications of inter-Palestinian and Syrian-Palestinian conflicts in the south. He declared that coming days in the south will decide who is to control the camps and the city of Sidon, and he stressed that the Lebanese Army must enter Sidon to defuse the situation.

Abu Nadir also said that it is high time that southern Lebanon be granted a respite and had only its own sons to deal with. He added: We must understand that no one has the right to tamper with the south. Certain people have used the south as a stepping-stone to carry out operations against Israel, while others have used it as a center of influence in the Middle East. He concluded that it is only natural that the Israeli withdrawal will be preceded by changes in the south.

Al-Shar' Confers With Polish Justice Minister

JN131237 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Polish Justice Minister Lech Domeradzki, who is currently visiting the country, at 1030 today. Khalid al-Maliki, minister of justice; Dr Jabr al-Kafri, director of the East European desk at the Foreign Ministry; and the Polish ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. Talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them in all areas. They also touched on the two friendly countries' struggle against imperialist and Zionist schemes.

Al-Shar' Receives Indonesian Envoy, Message

JN131407 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 13 Feb (SANA) — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received a message from Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja here today. The message includes an invitation to the Syrian Government to participate in the meeting which will be held in April to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the historic Bandung Conference, which established the bases and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement. Indonesian Ambassador Chalid Mawardi conveyed the message when Al-Shar' received him today.

'Capitulatory' Jordan-PLO Agreement Criticized

JN131350 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1131 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] He who marches along the correct road will ultimately achieve his goal. This is a well-known Arab proverb. 'Arafat and King Husayn know this proverb. It is also known by the Arab masses from the Gulf to the ocean. What Syria and the Palestinian nationalist forces, personalities, and organizations warned of when Yasir 'Arafat took the first step on the road to a U.S. solution to the Palestine question is now taking place in a very clear manner. He who relinquishes the principled stand will eventually reach the trenches and dens of capitulators, conspirators, and those who are fervently begging at the imperialist-Israeli doors. He will also reach the slopes of capitulations that have no limits.

The masses will realize that 'Arafat's hostility to Syria was linked to his contacts with the U.S. Administration, and that the escalation of this hostility was also linked with the progress of flirtation, contacts, and the exchange of services between 'Arafat and the U.S. Administration. In his book *They Dared To Speak*, U.S. Senator Paul Findley has exposed these contacts between 'Arafat and the U.S. Administration and revealed the services that 'Arafat has extended to the U.S. Administration and his pleas to this administration, despite the fact that it has not fulfilled some of its promises to 'Arafat.

Thus, 'Arafat's road to the U.S. Administration's lap has always been and is still similar to Anwar al-Sadat's road. This road is paved by concessions, humiliation, and capitulation. He who believed that the divisionist council that 'Arafat organized in Amman was a Palestinian affair and a step in the Palestinian nationalist conflict, or an expression of differences on means and methods inside the Palestinian nationalist ranks, will realize, after the 'Arafat-King Husayn agreement on joint or even unified action toward Camp David, the Reagan plan, and the capitulatory solution, that the Amman divisionist council was a reactionary royal Jordanian-'Arafatist step toward joining the Israeli-U.S. settlement march, which is rejected by the Arab nation's masses, particularly by the Palestinian people and their nationalist and revolutionary forces.

He who had doubts about the extent of 'Arafat's demagogy and lies will today realize this when he compares the statements made by 'Arafat's clique on rejecting the royal Jordanian framework for action, as proposed to the Amman divisionist council by King Husayn, with 'Arafat's arrival in Amman to announce the agreement with King Husayn on a unified capitulatory stand. This was meant to coincide with Ronald Reagan's meeting with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

The message that 'Arafat and King Husayn have sent to Washington is understood by the Israelis and Americans because they know that King Husayn and 'Arafat are ready to enter capitulatory negotiations. This message is also understood by the Arab and Palestinian masses who heard U.S. President Ronald Reagan say frankly that the United States has only Reagan's plan on the Middle East as announced in September 1982, that the United States is not ready to even defend these proposals, and that it calls on Arabs — not all the Arabs, but Jordan in particular — to enter capitulatory negotiations with Israel within the framework of unilateral and partial settlements in accordance with U.S.-Israeli security, military, and political conditions.

'Arafat and Husayn have announced their readiness to enter a capitulatory settlement. Reagan has also pointed out the road on which they must proceed. They might proceed on this road very soon. All this has been taken into consideration. However, the planners in Washington, Tel Aviv, and Amman have forgotten to consider the existence and strength of the Arab masses and that their calculations differ from those of the weaklings and capitulators. When the time comes for these masses to move, the parties to the capitulatory settlement will will find themselves before a situation that they cannot change or confront. They and their plans will vanish, just as the Baghdad Pact parties have vanished. Their plan will be foiled in the same manner as the attempts to peddle Camp David in the Arab arena were foiled.

Agreement Aids 'U.S. Scheme'

JN140907 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] *AL-BA'TH* comments on the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement and those panting after the mirage. *AL-BA'TH* says: With the conclusion of the Amman divisionist council, one expected the masks to be removed. This actually took place a few days ago when Yasir 'Arafat placed the last card of his capitulatory course on King Husayn's table and reached agreement with him on the

so-called joint move in the forthcoming stage to seek a settlement of the Palestinian cause. In the best of cases, this means empowering the Jordanian king to dispose of the Palestinian cause and to definitely liquidate it.

AL-BA'TH adds: Although the recent 'Arafat-Husayn move, which crowns a large-scale capitulatory trend, has surprised no one, it did, however, constitute a serious climax of the U.S. scheme against the region, particularly as the announcement of this move coincided with the rush by some Arab leaders toward the threshold of the White House, in preparation for the announcement of the revival of Reagan's plan on the basis that there are some Arab parties which agree to repeat Al-Sadat's crime and to enter direct negotiations with Israel.

AL-BA'TH says: In any case, the feverish rush toward capitulation and surrender, or throwing oneself into the lap of the U.S. Administration, cannot conceal the fact that the margin for maneuvering and deception has become very limited for 'Arafat and all the defeatists and the beggars who are standing at Washington's doors. Reagan explicitly stated that the only thing the United States can offer is his plan that proceeds from a complete bias to Israel. The Zionist leaders have clearly explained their real intentions. The Labor Party program, announced on 23 July 1984, is based on excluding the Palestinian people's rights, particularly their right to establish their independent state, and the Labor Party's commitment to a united Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel. Not long ago, Shamir called on the Arabs to drop all illusions about the return of the West Bank or about the establishment of a Palestinian state in exchange for peace. The Israeli representative to the United Nations has reiterated that Israel will not withdraw from the West Bank, as this will mean Israel's suicide.

AL-BA'TH concludes: With these constant facts in mind, one can say that the march of these capitulationists and collaborators means that they are panting after a mirage and seeking the impossible. This makes us stress that the new deal by the United States and its treacherous symbols will not be peddled, regardless of the forces and potentials that they mobilize. This attempt will have the same fate as their previous attempts and schemes in the region. Why? Because the decisive word has, throughout history, always been in the hands of the militant and steadfast masses and not in the hands of the defeatists and those who relinquish rights.

Reagan's Remarks to King Fahd Welcomed
TA131718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister today conferred with the U.S. ambassador to Israel and discussed with him, among other things, the agreement reached between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that satisfaction has been expressed in Jerusalem over President Reagan's remarks to King Fahd that the Arabs must enter direct negotiations with Israel.

Fahd Visit Termed 'Pitiful'
TA140552 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Jerusalem believes that Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has not succeeded in convincing the heads of the administration in Washington to accept the stand of the moderate Arab countries on the issue of settling the Middle East dispute. It has emerged that King Fahd was surprised at President Reagan's insistence on direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries. In Washington, rumors are spreading that Saudi Arabia will have difficulties in repaying its debts to the United States in the future. Jerusalem terms King Fahd's visit pitiful.

Officials Fear U.S. Middle East Policy Change
TA140558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Israeli officials in Washington fear that the United States is changing its stand concerning the peace process in the area, after President Reagan last night called the agreement between the PLO and Jordan progress and a breakthrough. The officials told our correspondent Razi Barqay that the U.S. Administration may put pressure on Israel to assume a more flexible attitude.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy last night promised Ambassador Me'ir Rosenne that the administration will not give up its demand that the Arabs recognize Israel, enter into direct negotiations with it, and adopt UN Resolution 242. Ambassador Rosenne said that any strengthening of Yasir 'Arafat's status will only weaken King Husayn. He also attacked the Soviet Union, saying that it has toughened its attitude toward the Jews.

Peres Interviewed on Lebanon, Syria, PLO
AU122207 Vienna Television Service in German 1915 GMT 12 Feb 85

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Vienna television correspondent Hans Benedict; date and place not given — recorded in English fading into superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Benedict] The Israeli plan for withdrawal has run into opposition in the left-right coalition of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. The Likud Party of Peres deputy Yitzhaq Shamir fears a takeover of the power by terrorists in the areas affected by the withdrawal. Does this imply a halt in the withdrawal?

[Peres] I do not think so. We distinguish between the Lebanese policy and terror. We do not interfere in politics, but we shall oppose the terror.

[Benedict] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad wants to control Lebanon as a deployment area through a balance between the forces engaged in the civil war. Lebanese President al-Jumayyil must content himself with a small fraction of governing power.

[Peres] The Syrians are conducting a Middle East policy of their own and their ally, the Soviet Union, limits itself to providing support. If Syria were to change its policy with the intention of a moderation, the Soviets would most likely join in. However, at present, things do not look that way. Syria remains the most militaristic, extremist Arab power and I do not see any change in this course. We have learned that one can only enter into a strategic agreement with Syria, and that it is impossible to arrive at a political settlement.

[Benedict] And this is the decisive criterion in the Lebanon issue?

[Peres] The difference between Syria and Lebanon is that Syria has a government, but not a constructive policy. There is no real government in Lebanon. Lebanon is so torn that there is no one with whom one could negotiate.

[Benedict] If I am not mistaken, there exists a fixed agreement between foreign ministers George Shultz and Andrey Gromyko, according to which the superpowers are also to discuss the Middle East conflict in parallel with arms control negotiations. Israel objects to this and had the Reagan administration give explicit assurance that there will be no direct binding negotiations with the USSR. This means that there will be an exchange of views on the Middle East, but no genuine talks. What is this confusion good for?

[Peres] We can clarify this very easily. There exists a twofold problem with the Soviet Union. First, there is the Soviet position in the Israeli-Arab conflict. As long as that position is as one-sided as it is now, the question is: What do we need the Russians for? Only to strengthen the Arabs? And if Israel makes concessions to the Arabs, why should this be via Moscow? Why pay an extra price?

Therefore, as long as the Russians do not change their positions and embark on a middle course, we do not see any role for the Russians. On the other hand, there is the question of whether the Russians and Americans will get anywhere at all in the disarmament talks. First let them succeed in this before they deal with us. But to only link the Soviet-American conflict with the Middle East — this would result in two conflicts, one interconnected with the other, but not solving any one of these.

[Benedict] Your troop withdrawal from Lebanon is being evaluated as a new chance for a new Middle East initiative, or at least as a chance to revive one of the earlier initiatives. Will you make

an effort in this respect once the withdrawal from Lebanon has been completed?

[Peres] Yes, I mean by this that we shall pursue a pacification policy irrespective of the actions and reactions of other countries. The objective of this policy will be the elimination of tensions and, if possible, a final state of peace between us and our neighbors.

[Benedict] But how will all these things appear specifically? Will you undertake the first step for its end?

[Peres] Well, we cannot take thousands of steps at the same time. We must proceed in stages. We must stick to our priorities. The first few priorities are the withdrawal from Lebanon and, in domestic policy, the recovery of the economy. Once we have achieved this, we shall improve our relations with Egypt, then we shall see how we can achieve a rapprochement with Jordan.

[Benedict] As soon as the Israelis are gone, a new internecine war is expected to break out in the PLO camps between the partisans and the Syrian-controlled opponents of PLO chief 'Arafat as happened in 1983 in northern Lebanon.

[Peres] It is a fact that 'Arafat is evidently unable to achieve anything that could reunite the PLO. I am saying this from experience and on the basis of a long-term observation of 'Arafat's policy. After 20 years one can hardly expect 'Arafat to change his priorities or orientations. If 'Arafat is any leader at all, then he is one who does not decide the real things. It is simply impossible to be only a chief of administration if one wants to lead. One must-lead politically. 'Arafat has administered the PLO as a terrorist organization. He has never tried to give his people a genuine orientation and a genuine policy. However, I am convinced that if King Husayn of Jordan decides in favor of a peace policy, he will have strong support, perhaps the support even of the majority of the Palestinians in the west Jordan region and in Gaza.

Peres on Peace Process, U.S. Aid, Tabah

TA132025 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1939 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres on "Moqed" program by Nisim Mish'al and political correspondent Yoram Ronen — live in Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem]

[Text] [Mish'al] The "Moqed" program is being broadcast this evening from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. Shim'on Peres has been prime minister for exactly 5 months and this is his first appearance as prime minister on the "Moqed" program. Naturally, we will ask Mr Peres about a series of issues currently on the agenda. Good evening to you, Mr Prime Minister.

[Peres] A good and pleasant evening to you.

[Mish'al] *NEWSWEEK* has described you as a political gambler.

[Peres] A gambler?

[Mish'al] Yes, a gambler, and what the magazine means is a political gambler. In contrast, *HA'ARETZ* has given you the title of national decisionmaker. How would you describe yourself — as a gambler or as a decisionmaker?

[Peres] I would say that every decision is somewhat of a gamble, although one gambles also when one does not make a decision. I think it is my duty to make decisions even when those decisions occasionally entail a gamble.

[Mish'al] You are saying that as you look back on the 5 months you have been in office.

[Peres] I hope so. I know I have done my best.

[Mish'al] Perhaps we should discuss the various issues you have been dealing with one by one. Let us begin with the agreement between Husayn and 'Arafat.

[Ronen] Mr Prime minister, although this agreement does not include a specific commitment by the PLO to stop terrorism and to recognize Israel — and it is doubtful that it contains recognition of UN Resolution 242 — does it not represent some kind of change or progress? After all, even President Reagan himself this evening stated that the agreement entails some kind of chance for peace.

[Peres] I believe that the agreement includes less than what Husayn himself had proposed and hoped for. When he addressed the PNC, he highlighted the need to base negotiations with Israel on Security Council Resolution 242, but there is no mention of Resolution 242 in the agreement he made with 'Arafat.

[Ronen] Perhaps it would be mentioned if the Americans were to recognize the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians in the negotiations.

[Peres] So far, the Americans have insisted on their well-known and traditional position, reiterated yesterday by U.S. President Reagan. The President mentioned three things — the need for the PLO to recognize the State of Israel and its right to exist, as he phrased it; direct negotiations; and, UN Resolution 242. I do not expect the Americans to change their positions, although I am aware that some of the efforts currently under way in Amman are directed at Washington no less than they are directed at Jerusalem, which may be a mistake, because peace must be made with Jerusalem and not with Washington.

[Mish'al] Mr Peres, let us simplify the matter. According to information you now have, would you describe this as a serious peace initiative aimed at beginning negotiations with Israel?

[Peres] I would not [last word as heard] say that it is a departure from the Khartoum resolutions, but it is still insufficient to open peace negotiations.

[Mish'al] Does it represent a step forward?

[Peres] It represents a step forward from the Arab point of view, but it is not yet a proposal to enter peace negotiations as we see it. After all, peace is a serious matter. Can peace be made by

conducting negotiations with the Russians or the Syrians? Can peace be made by not recognizing Israel? Can peace negotiations be held with Israel when its citizens are being shot? Peace calls for serious people, because it is not merely a game of words.

First and foremost, I would like to say today, just as I said yesterday and many times before, the national unity government proposes to the Arabs and to the Palestinians — albeit not to the PLO — genuine peace, peace negotiations without any preconditions. I invite Husayn to come and sit with us and propose whatever he wants, and we will discuss all his suggestions.

[Mish'al] Mr Peres, you are now inviting Husayn. You believed that he would join the political negotiations but, in exchange, Husayn has gone and made an agreement with 'Arafat. Did he not upset your political cards to a certain extent?

[Peres] I see that you have a complaint against Husayn; I do also.

[Mish'al] I am only asking how you feel about it.

[Peres] I have patience and we will not change our position. If you look back, you can see that the Arab world is beginning to realize that it must also move in the direction of peace. There was once an Arab leader who realized that he should move forward enough to make peace, and that man was Al-Sadat. I hope that day will also come, but until then, Israel will keep the initiative. I think that the fact that we kept the initiative to some extent forced the Arabs to budge, and I know that a real peace proposal will not come tomorrow. I was not disappointed and I was not angry.

[Mish'al] In other words, despite everything you still believe that King Husayn will definitely come?

[Peres] No, despite everything I believe that peace is vital to both us and the Arabs have no other choice — just as we have no better alternative — than peace.

[Ronen] Nonetheless, Mr Peres, do you not see a crack in the edifice, in the fact that for the first time the PLO is accepting the formula of territories in exchange for peace?

[Peres] What can we do with cracks? We need a real plan. Look, I do not like the words moderation or cracks. This is a very serious matter and a resolution must be made that would enable all the parties to meet around the negotiating table. I repeat, peace can only be made with Israel, but not without it; with Israel and not instead of Israel. If that takes time, then it will take time; I have not given up and I am not impatient.

[Mish'al] I must tell you that I am rather surprised by your great optimism. After all, since the Rabat conference in 1974 Husayn has tied his fate with that of the Palestinians and the PLO. What makes you so optimistic that this connection will come apart and that Husayn will come to the negotiating table on his own and forsake 'Arafat after he signed an agreement with him? Maybe you could share some of your optimism with us.

[Peres] Look, 6 months ago 'Arafat did not even dream of holding the PNC session in Amman. He did not dream that he would go to Amman, kiss Husayn, and recognize their joint fate. So what happened? Circumstances forced him to change his positions, but not sufficiently. Incidentally, I do not see any hope in the PLO and 'Arafat. In my view, 'Arafat is an obstacle to peace and a man who cannot make decisions. Even now he is avoiding a decision — he did not accept Resolution 242, did not stop terrorism, and he still insists on a separate state and so forth. However, there are objective circumstances that compel both the Arabs and us to choose a path different than that of war.

[Ronen] The way you describe the situation, it would seem that the political freeze with Jordan may last until at least the end of your term in office. Maybe you are missing an opportunity you thought you would encounter.

[Peres] I do not think the State of Israel lives according to the terms of prime ministers. I think that prime ministers live according to the terms of the State of Israel. In other words, the history of our country is made of chapters, and one of these chapters deals with making peace. If that happens during my term in office, I will be very happy, but if that is not the case, I will not change my position.

[Mish'al] Mr Prime Minister, with Yoram's permission, I will elaborate on the same question. What can you actually propose to Husayn, given the current constellation of the national unity government, except for the declaration that he can join the negotiating table without any preconditions?

[Peres] I can propose to Husayn the opening of negotiations. It may very well be that opinions may split within the government as the negotiations progress. However, the national unity government — and I am talking on behalf of the entire government — decided on two serious matters which should be reiterated. First, to invite Husayn to begin negotiations on peace in the Middle East without any preconditions; second, to make a clear statement that Husayn would be able to raise any proposal he likes and that the government would seriously discuss any such proposal. Let him come to the negotiating table and propose whatever he wants. We will discuss everything and, of course, we will raise our own proposals. Look, one of the most bizarre proposals made now in Amman is to call an international conference. What do the Arabs actually want? They want us to attend a conference with the five permanent members of the Security Council and speak to Russia, for example. Are we at war with Russia? Do we have diplomatic relations with the Russians? Have the Russians taken an objective position in the Middle East? If they want to discuss peace, then they should talk to us face to face and without any preconditions.

[Mish'al] Mr Prime Minister, with your permission we will go on to the issue of the withdrawal from Lebanon. There are daily attacks on IDF soldiers, so why should we not accelerate the withdrawal from Lebanon?

[Peres] The government decided on a plan and this plan has a certain logic. The government decided to effect a three-phased withdrawal, drawing conclusions at the end of each stage about the previous phase and enabling either the Lebanese Government or Lebanese forces to arrive at an agreement if possible. The phases will take place relatively close to each other, and we will carry out the plan in line with our decision.

[Ronen] Would you say that the entire evacuation and withdrawal to the international border will be completed by summer?

[Peres] I very much hope so. I think this is vital and I do not see any sense in spending another winter in Lebanon. I am certain that all the Cabinet members, the Knesset members, and the majority of the people want us to put an end to this, to spare very dear casualties. In fact, no one has any proposal about what we should do in Lebanon if we stay, and there is no proposal to remain in Lebanon forever either.

[Ronen] Do you feel an urgency to end this affair as soon as possible?

[Peres] Yes, to end it quickly, but not rashly. Incidents and terrorist attacks will not affect this plan. I think that the Cabinet adopted a plan and we must implement it according to the decision, one phase after the other.

[Mish'al] Mr Peres, Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has asked — and I am quoting — whether the recent attacks are not the result of the decision on an accelerated withdrawal. How would you answer Shamir?

[Peres] Assuming that the answer is yes, what is the alternative — stay there? And if we stay, does anyone have any guarantee that there will be no more attacks? Were there no attacks before that?

[Mish'al] Still, Mr Shamir has called for holding a second Cabinet debate on the withdrawal decision; he has called for halting the withdrawal.

[Peres] I have not heard him make such a call. This Cabinet, just as any other Cabinet, works according to the decision of the majority. A majority decision is binding on the entire Cabinet and we will implement the decision.

[Mish'al] Do the recent attacks close to the northern border not give you food for thought about the security of the Galilee in the future?

[Peres] This is not the first time that a terrorist attack has taken place near the border. An attack took place almost on the same spot about 1 year ago when there was still no decision about a withdrawal. What is the conclusion? There is no conclusion whatsoever. There are two ways to defend the Galilee — from Lebanese soil or from Israeli soil. In my opinion, the defense of the Galilee from Lebanese soil exacts a heavy toll on us, and I think that it is possible to defend the Galilee from Israeli soil by means of a more flexible, mobile, and ultimately more economic system.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, do you not foresee pressure from the Likud, by Sharon, Shamir, and Arens, to postpone the next phase, the third phase of the withdrawal from Lebanon? Perhaps, they have some alternate solutions which they may try to impose on you.

[Peres] I do not want to speak on behalf of any of the Cabinet members. I am speaking on behalf of most Cabinet members — on behalf of the entire Cabinet. I have not seen any of the ministers who voted for the plan as a whole changing his opinion or having grounds to change his position. The fact that there are ministers who think differently is normal in a democratic country.

[Mish'al] Let us, perhaps, leave political matters for a bit and, with your permission, discuss economic matters. Yoram, please.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Wallis said last week that Israel will not be able to obtain emergency aid unless it carries out a substantial devaluation of the shekel, unless the government stops printing money and pumping it into the economy, but most importantly, unless it makes a drastic cut in its budget. Do you accept the U.S. recommendation?

[Peres] No. We had an argument with the Americans on this. Incidentally, you have misquoted him. I would first of all like to make one general comment about Wallis' statement — which, if correctly quoted, somewhat surprised me. What does it mean? That we squandered the $1.2 billion we received from the United States? We did not waste one penny; we repaid debts. To take only the United States, this year we repaid $1 billion.

[Ronen] But we received another loan!

[Peres] Yes, that is correct, but the money we are getting is slated for the repayment of debts. What creates the debt? This, too, must be known. We owe the United States $11 billion at the moment, of which $10 billion is for oil. As you will recall, we received $1.4 billion in U.S. aid as a grant, plus $300 million as a loan — which we are repaying. We are not wasting anything.

Now, what is our problem? First of all I would like to say something positive. Israel and the United States are engaged in a professional friendly argument. It is not pressure; they have one view and we have another. Now, what do we agree on, and on what do we differ? It is agreed that we must balance the state budget, in other words, that we should not spend more than we have, because if we spend more than we have we will be forced to print paper, which can be called money, but is in fact only paper. This causes inflation. We also agree on the precise scope of the necessary cuts, which amount to between $2.5 billion and $3 billion.

[Ronen] But what we disagree on is the U.S. demand to devalue the shekel, which is unacceptable to us!

[Peres] No, we have an argument over the methods to implement the cut. We can choose from three options on cutting the budget. The first is to decrease the state budget by $1 billion or $1.5 billion; the second is to cut subsidies — which reached $1.7 or $1.8 billion, whereas we decided to slash $1.2 billion; and the third is to devalue the shekel. We told the Americans at once that we will not devalue the shekel. I repeat, there will not be a devaluation. Why? First of all, because a devaluation will cause inflation, and inflation will defeat the outcome of the devaluation, and so on and so forth. Second, all of a sudden, all of us will be poorer, and we will lose the trust and confidence of the people. But most importantly, we have better alternatives. As I

said, to slash $1.1 billion from the state budget, $1.2 billion from the subsidies, and $400 million by way of the latest cuts through the implementation of a travel tax, a tax on the purchase of new cars, a tax on limited-term deposits, and the like.

[Mish'al] Mr Peres, it may sound very rosy, but in actual fact all this has remained on paper only. I understand that the Cabinet has been unable to slash its budget.

[Peres] We have a problem with your understanding, and not only with yours, but with the understanding of several economic analysts.

[Mish'al] So that everyone is wrong and the Cabinet is right?

[Peres] No, not all of them are wrong, but not all of them look at the facts. I, too, did not know this, which is why I decided to tell you that.

[Mish'al] You mean, you did not know about the need to cut the budget?

[Peres] No, I was not aware of the fact that we had to cut twice. In fact, the scope of government activity exceeded the written budget by nearly $1 billion. That is to say, that even before cuts are made in the written budget, the actual budget should have been updated to the level of the written budget — because of inflation, because of the difficulty in determining the conversion of dollars to shekels and vice versa. This caused a difference of — as I said — almost $1 billion. For instance, in the defense budget alone, the difference reached $400 million. So first of all we had to lower the level of expenses to meet the standard of the written budget. This is a laborious task.

[Mish'al] Today, the situation is...

[Peres, interrupting] One moment. Second, part of the state expenses are mandated by law. In other words, it is necessary to change the laws. The process of legislating in the Knesset takes time. At present we are talking about a state budget which, in real terms, is $1 billion less than last year's budget. Indeed, cuts are being implemented everywhere.

[Mish'al] Do you mean to say that the present situation is that the cuts are only on paper?

[Peres] No. A large part of them have already been carried out; others are going through the legislation process in the Knesset, which will take time as there is an argument over everything, as you can read in the papers — be it over educational and tuition fees or the travel tax. We have a country with a parliament where debates are carried out. Still, another part of the budget should be slashed in this year's budget.

[Ronen] Next year, will you force the Cabinet ministers to implement a real, substantial $1 billion cut in the state budget?

[Peres] I do not like the word "I." The Cabinet, however, will force its members to limit themselves to the framework of the budget.

Now, I would like to say that the Americans requested two things which we accepted; they call them institutional changes. The first is that the ministers will be responsible for the size of the budget — as is the practice in other countries; the second is that the Bank of Israel will enjoy greater autonomy, so that it will not regularly have to print money. This we accept.

[Mish'al] I understand that we — the public — have heard good news from you this evening, that there will not be a devaluation, come what may.

[Peres] Correct.

[Mish'al] So now, perhaps let us ask about subsidies. The package deal allows for cuts in subsidies for basic commodities. My question is, by how much will the subsidies be cut this month?

[Peres] All in all, subsidies for basic goods will be cut by 25 percent. This covers subsidies for bread, butter, and cooking oil.

[Ronen] Excuse me, do you mean 25 percent this month, or is this the total?

[Peres] This is the total. The cut in subsidies will amount to $1.1 or $1.2 billion, of which we have already cut $800 million, in the course of the [package deal] negotiations. We must make another cut of $200 million and still another, again by $200 million. We have totally abolished subsidies for fuel, and we have cut subsidies for electricity — by 25 percent for private consumption, and by 50 percent for industry, for water, and for public transportation. So the main bulk of the cuts has already been implemented, with the consent of the Histadrut and the employers. If the public continues to stand by this economic plan — as it has thus far, and we should be proud of our outstanding public — we will get through this difficult period. I believe we are at the end of the cuts in general, and we are beginning to embark on the beginning of the process of growth and development. I did not enter the government to be the chief budget cutter. No one did.

[Mish'al] Judging from your understanding and the facts you have presented here, you are, at least, a super-treasurer.

[Peres] No, I am a prime minister who must deal with all state affairs, and if I am not mistaken, I believe the economic issue is rather topical in Israel.

[Mish'al] If that is the case, let us then go back to political issues. Let us start with the situation in the territories. Minister Hayim Bar-Lev, your colleague, said this week that settlement in Khirbat al-Rumaythah near Hebron is an act of impudence and insolence. Does this statement by Bar-Lev reflect your views or positions, too?

[Peres] In essence, yes; but as for the choice of words — that each person chooses for himself. I would not like to repeat Minister Bar-Lev's words; every one selects his own phrases, and I am not minister of words or prime minister of words.

To the best of my knowledge, even the previous government never decided to establish a Jewish settlement in Khirbat al-

Rumaythah. There is, however, a decision by the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs, but not a government decision.

Our position — the position of the party which I represent, and this is no secret — is that the way to establish our right to Hebron has been fulfilled by the establishment of Qiryat Arba'. We would not suggest that in addition to Qiryat Arba' another settlement be set up either in Hebron or near it.

[Ronen]So that means that you would oppose the Herut ministers and demand that a settlement in Khirbat al-Rumaythah or in the heart of Hebron not be established?

[Peres] That is correct.

[Ronen] But you intend to visit the Judaea and Samaria settlements soon, not all of which have been established in accordance with your political views. Will your visit not legitimize them?

[Peres] No. They are citizens of Israel. I also respect resolutions adopted contrary to my views, and certainly I honor the citizens who live there in accordance with government decisions. I have no complaints against them. I am their representative, too. I am not a prime minister of one party or of only one political path. It is my legal duty, as prime minister, to represent all citizens, wherever they may be.

[Mish'al] Mr Peres, time is running out, so let us go on to Egypt; it seems like we are touring the region.

[Peres] Fine.

[Mish'al] When you entered office, you pinned high hopes on thawing the freeze in relations with Egypt. There was talk about a meeting between you and President Mubarak, and everyone was expecting the arrival of a special Egyptian envoy, who ultimately did not arrive. The agreement over Tabah is still open. Perhaps, then, Yitzhaq Shamir, who said that we are debasing ourselves by running after the Egyptians was right, or is right?

[Peres] In the eyes of whom? I do not understand. Supposing we want... [Peres changes thought] Honestly, let us first clarify things. Is there any shame or any debasement involved in my desire for peace? Is it shameful for me to want to improve our relations with Egypt? Does this entail debasement? And in the eyes of whom am I being debased? I would like to understand!

[Mish'al] It means that in running after the Egyptians we are losing face.

[Peres] How? What do you mean by running after them?

[Mish'al] By offering them Tabah.

[Peres] Forgive me. We have an agreement with Egypt. Egypt is responsible for 50 percent of this agreement, and we are responsible for 50 percent of it, too. I would not like the agreement with Egypt — the first peace agreement [with an Arab country] — to be the last peace agreement between us and an Arab country.

[Mish'al] But even you...

[Peres, interrupting] Now let me answer your question.

[Mish'al] Yes, but let me just ask you this, after all, in an interview with *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, you too expressed disappointment with the Egyptian approach, with that of President Mubarak?

[Peres] I criticized because I do not think Egyptian-Israeli relations can be summed up in the nutshell of Tabah. Tabah has all of a sudden become the Middle Eastern alps, and one would have thought that there was God knows what there. It is one point in an all-encompassing, very comprehensive fabric of relations. Now let me answer your question. I think the Cabinet must operate according to priorities, and I believe the top priority should have been given to Lebanon. I believe we had to put all our efforts into ending our involvement in Lebanon. Regarding Egypt, we began progressing step by step. In connection with Tabah, we agreed to the entry of the multinational force. The Egyptians expressed satisfaction — whether limited or not so limited — with this, and the negotiations will continue. Today [as heard] we reached an agreement on the Canada [refugee] camp [in Rafah]. The Egyptians accepted the three or four demands we raised — to let us look for the remains of the *Daqar* [submarine which mysteriously disappeared somewhere off the Egyptian coast in 1968]; to allow us to search for the bodies of IDF soldiers who died in battle; Egypt will repay a small debt that has remained unpaid on the oil pipeline [Israel left in the Sinai]and will raise the sum of money that will be paid [by Egypt] for the purpose of building a new home for every refugee [of the Canadiancamp which will be handed over to Israeli rule in the Gaza District].

[Mish'al] In other words, you must be pleased with the speed of the development of relations with Egypt?

[Peres] I never said so; I said I would like things to move more quickly; things are moving slower than I would like. Still, things are moving, and I will do everything... [Peres changes thought] In general, I would say that some people living in Israel think that the country's job is to impress others. I think the country's job is to carry out a policy, set ways, determine facts, set an atmosphere. I cannot see how we are debasing ourselves, and in the eyes of whom. Tell me, does Israel appear more debased today than it did 5 months ago in the eyes of the world?

[Mish'al] But, sir, I was only quoting Vice Prime Minister Shamir!

[Peres] So I am replying.

[Mish'al] Are you answering Mr Shamir through me?

[Peres] I am responding to your quote, so that you will not be confused. I think that right now Israel appears very honorable in the eyes of the world, as well as in its own eyes.

[Ronen] This leads me to understand, Mr Peres, that we have already done our part in making concessions, thank you very much, and that now it is the Egyptians' turn to make concessions?

[Peres] One of the members of the [Israeli-Egyptian joint commit tee] told me: If you give in on Tabah, the Egyptians will become more greedy.

So I asked him: Greedy for what? For the Sinai? For the Sinai approaches? For Yamit?

[Ronen] In other words I was right in claiming that we have given in.

[Mish'al] So why is Israel not prepared to give up Tabah?

[Peres] Israel does not have to give up Tabah. There is an agreement, which says that regarding Tabah there will be three stages — first, negotiations; then conciliation; and third, arbitration. I believe Israel must follow what has been agreed upon. Nothing more, but nothing less.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, with your permission, let us move on to another subject, one causing disagreement between the Alignment and the Likud — political appointments. We have heard much criticism regarding Minister Sharon's intentions to appoint a deputy director to the Israel Chemicals Company, saying this is a political appointment. There is, of course, the other side to the issue. For example, the chairman of the Electric Company's Board of Directors might be a political appointment. The adviser on Arab affairs could also be called a political appointment; also, the well-known appointment of the prime minister's adviser on terrorist activities is a case in point. How do you regard this issue?

[Peres] I do not see the problem as one of political appointments; I see a problem of legal or illegal appointments. After all, what is a political appointment? Let us say that a person or a party member has a political outlook. This is not a reason not to appoint him; nor is it a reason to appoint him. The question is whether the appointment is legal. This, in my opinion, is the real criterion.

[Ronen] Is the appointment of a deputy director of a government company such as Israel Chemicals Company a legal one?

[Peres] There is a way according to which such an appointment should be made. He cannot be appointed by a minister without the approval of the board of directors. This is the real issue. Of course, one cannot dismiss a person only because of his opinions, except for some acceptable cases such as a director general and a personal adviser. It is natural that every minister should want the director general, the advisers, and his personal aides to be people loyal to him. This is accepted in all democracies and there is no question about it.

[Ronen] If we return to the case of Israel Chemicals Company, it seems that Arik Sharon is trying to force his appointment on the board of directors.

[Peres] The court has prevented that.

[Ronen] And you think that was right.

[Peres] Who am I to question the court's decision? I think that every minister must act legally. As for the other appointments you mentioned, the adviser on terrorist affairs 'Amiram Nir must advise me. 'Amiram Nir is an excellent IDF battalion commander [in the reserves] and works at the Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University. He is an intellectual young man and it is good to introduce new and young brains.

[Ronen] You do not agree with Arik Sharon's description of Nir's appointment as a national scandal.

[Peres] Had I thought so I would not have appointed him. I think he has the potential and the required qualifications, and there is no doubt about it. I also do not think that one person can have the sole right to decide who and what is right. There are procedures and regulations and I have acted according to them.

[Mish'al] Members of the Likud and other parties believe that the rotation between you and Yitzhaq Shamir will not take place. I am not asking you to acknowledge this, but would rather like to ask you another question. You are a veteran politician; can you perhaps tell us where this doubt originates?

[Peres] Political life is built on many doubts and much criticism. Is this the only subject arousing doubts? Almost every issue you raise will be doubted. Take a look, for example, at Jordan, 'Arafat, Egypt, economics — all these are accompanied by doubts. I can tell you unambiguously: We signed an agreement; we will implement it both in letter and in spirit.

[Ronen] Do you find it a problem to serve in a government with 'Ezer Weizman on the one hand and Arik Sharon on the other, and Yitzhaq Rabin on one side and Yitzhaq Shamir on the other?

[Peres] First of all, it is very interesting. You cannot say we have a boring government. Second, even though the government is not the most unified in the world, it is a very interesting one. It is a government that has generated the greatest amount of unity within the nation. It gave expression to the fact that just as there are tendencies to divide the people, there is also the tendency to unite. A unity government, despite the internal differences of opinion, is the truest and most interesting expression of the people's desire to be united.

[Mish'al] Mr Peres, the 40 minutes allotted to this broadcast are nearly up, so I will ask one last question. As our viewers can see, we are sitting in the Prime Minister's Office, where seven prime ministers before you sat, starting with David Ben-Gurion through Menahem Begin and Yitzhaq Shamir. Each one, if I am permitted to say, left his mark on Israeli policy. What mark would you like to leave once you step down from your post?

[Peres] I think that is a dangerous way to think. A person who considers what mark he will make begins to think more about himself than his job. I am answering you seriously. I would like to get up in the morning and ask myself what the correct and necessary things are regarding my duties. I hope to be able to go to sleep at night with the feeling that that is the way I behaved. I see myself — and I am not bragging — as a man who serves a purpose, who serves the people. Things must be dealt with seriously, rather than on an egocentric basis; we must express those things that unite us and do what is necessary. We must not be frightened by difficulties, and we must always be sure that our

great hope — our ability to overcome all problems — lies in the strength of each one of us and of our history.

Rabin on Defense Budget Cut, Lebanon

TA131741 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that there is no chance that a proper government will be established in Lebanon within the next few years that will be able to control terrorism. We tried to reach an arrangement, Rabin said, but this also did not work. For lack of a better solution, we were forced to withdraw.

On cuts to the defense budget, the defense minsiter said that they may involve a security danger. In his opinion, the current cuts will result in the dismissal of between 5,000 and 8,000 civilians and career officers. Rabin said this to NA'AMAT [Histadrut-affiliated women's organization] members a short while ago. Our correspondent Limor Nahum reports from the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Nahum] The cuts to the defense budget this year, Minister Rabin said, have reached the gravest level ever. According to him, there is no alternative but to dismiss workers in the defense establishment and related industries. He revealed that efforts are still being made, with the help of the United States, to solve the problem of the Israel shipyards. Those who demand the cut, Rabin said, should also be aware of the consequences.

[Rabin] This means that the IDF's fighting force will be reduced; I will not say where and to what extent. We will be able to give the State of Israel poorer security services than we are capable of. We will be taking risks in the short- and long-run as a result of such a cut.

[Nahum] Dealing with the cuts is difficult, Rabin said, but he immediately clarified priorities.

[Rabin] It seems to me that at this time, the problem of the IDF and the defense estalbishment is how to least affect the State of Israel's fighting ability. This is the number one problem — first and foremost, how to give the best security with this; this is the only consideration.

[Nahum] On the withdrawal from Lebanon, Rabin explained that terrorism in Lebanon has reached a high level of sophistication. It does not seem as though a proper government will be estalbished in the coming years, and without one, we have no one to talk to, and so we must return home.

[Rabin] There are those who ask why we are carrying out a phased withdrawal. It must be phased because we must be able to see what will happen after the three stages are completed. We must be able to defend the Galilee. We cannot allow the situation to revert to the way it was before.

[Nahum] Finally, Rabin summed up his remarks. Among the most important issues confronting the defense establishment at the moment are dealing with the budget cut and the war in southern Lebanon.

[Rabin] There are two seemingly contradictory tasks — a painful cut in the defense budget, and standing up to a most complex terrorism problem in southern Lebanon. The IDF will have two problems, in addition to the IDF deployment — first of all, to prevent a war and, if this is forced on us, to win it. [end recording]

Kidnapped American Escapes; Reaches Syrians

TA141011 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] A U.S. correspondent, kidnapped in Beirut approximately 1 year ago, succeeded in escaping his kidnappers last night. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the correspondent, Jeremy Levin, who works for the CNN television network, was caught by extremist Shi'ites and was held prisoner in the village of Ba'labakk in the Lebanese Al-Biqa'. After his escape, he walked for approximately 2 hours and reached the Syrian Army headquarters. It has been reported that he is in good health.

Details on IDF-Lebanese Army Incident

TA131411 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] This afternoon an IDF patrol forced a Lebanese Army unit to withdraw from a position on the Al-Awwali River. Last night, 25 Lebanese Army 12th Brigade soldiers took control of the 'Alman bridge, which had earlier been deserted by the army of southern Lebanon.

Foreign news agency reporters say that this morning IDF soldiers, on two armored personnel carriers, arrived at the bridge, and aimed their arms at the Lebanese soldiers. After several panicky telephone conversations, the Lebanese soldiers left the bridge, and two IDF tanks took up positions there. Four Lebanese Army battalions have deployed along the coastal road not far from Sidon, awaiting the IDF's withdrawal from the city.

IDF Denies Incident

TA131712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] An IDF unit captured four terrorists north of the Al-Awwali River. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the unit crossed the river while chasing after the terrorist squad. During the chase, the IDF soldiers did not encounter Lebanese Army soldiers.

Meanwhile, IDF sources have denied that an IDF unit allegedly chased away Lebanese Army troops who had seized a bridge on the Al-Awwali River.

IDF Detains 60 in Burj Rahhal; 1 Dead

TA141300 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1245 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] IDF troops searching the Shi'ite village of Burj Rahhal in southern Lebanon have so far detained some 60 residents. They

are searching for terrorists and weapons. The UNIFIL spokesman has meanwhile told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that at noon a fight erupted between top UNIFIL and IDF officers, when the UN people tried to prevent IDF bulldozers from demolishing three buildings in the center of the village. UNIFIL members claim that their officers were pushed aside. Top UNIFIL officers remain in the village.

Before noon the UN force handed the body of a villager to the Red Cross. The UNIFIL spokesman, however, has emphasized to our correspondent that so far there is no clear information concerning the circumstances surrounding the man's death.

Our correspondent notes that Burj Rahhal is the second Shi'ite village being searched by the IDF this week, following the distribution of pamphlets in the area claiming that the IDF would not dare enter these villages.

Northern Command's General Or on Lebanese Situation

IDF's New Deployment Line

TA131340 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Major General Ori Or, commander of the IDF Northern Command, told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the new line in Lebanese is an interim line, and that the IDF will do its best to go through the withdrawal period without being attacked. Ori Or also says that the new line will be controlled in such a way as to allow freer traffic in the Christian area — for the Christians, of course. As for events in Lebanon itself following the withdrawal, Ori Or says there is uncertainty as to what will happen in the evacuated areas.

[Begin recording] [Or] Our assessment is that there will be different developments in different places we evacuate in Lebanon. Local coalitions will be formed, and I do not expect there will be calm in this area. I hope that things will remain between the Lebanese themselves. In the first stage, this is certainly what will happen. It is difficult to predict what will happen later on.

[Tal] How would you explain the recent increase in attacks? Is it in any way connected to the decision to withdraw?

[Or] I do not know if there is a connection; perhaps there is a link. The desire to attack us has always existed. There has been an increase in the number of attacks, but there can be many reasons for this. Some people want us to remain, and in this way they prove to us that there are attacks everywhere. Other people deep down inside perhaps do not want us to withdraw. However, since we have already decided to withdraw, they will attack us to be accepted by other factors in the territory. [end recording]

Notes ASL Desertions

TA131521 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The commander of the Northern Command believes there is no basis to the assessment that the increase in attempts to attack IDF soldiers is a result of the decision to withdraw from Lebanon. Talking to our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal, Major General Ori Or revealed that one-third of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] soldiers have abandoned the force, and at present the soldiers remaining in the force are those living in the old ASL strip. The commander of the Northern Command does not think that the Syrian Army will enter the eastern sector once the IDF withdraws from that area. In his opinion, the Lebanese Army will try to enter Sidon following the IDF's evacuation from the town.

Views Evacuation Schedule

TA131817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The commander of the Northern Command has said that the evacuation of the eastern sector of Lebanon will take between 10 and 12 weeks. Major General Ori Or said that the evacuation of the eastern sector is the hardest stage of the withdrawal from Lebanon, and that the IDF may suffer a decline in its deterrent power vis-a-vis the Syrians for a certain period of time. Interviewed by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal, Maj Gen Or said that in his opinion, the Syrians will not enter the area the IDF will evacuate in the eastern sector, and control over that area will pass to the terrorists, mainly members of the Abu Musa [Sa'd Musa Muragha] faction of Fatah.

This morning our correspondent reported that the IDF has already begun removing equipment and installations from the eastern sector of Lebanon.

Chief of Staff Warns Syria Not To Move South

TA131721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The chief of staff has said that if the Syrians go into the areas evacuated by the IDF in southern Lebanon, the IDF would be prepared to tackle such a situation just as it is prepared to deal with a similar situation on the Golan Heights. Lieutenant General Moshe Levi expressed readiness to assist the Lebanese Army in every possible way so that its soldiers can take over the areas evacuated by the IDF.

Lt Gen Levi was speaking with the Voice of Israel's Arabic program correspondent, Shlomo Gindi.

ASL Deploys in Central Sector of Lebanon

TA131634 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Army of southern Lebanon [ASL] units today deployed in new posts west of Jazzin in the central sector, following their withdrawal from Sidon last night. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the chief of the IDF liaison unit in Lebanon, Shlomo Ilia, patrolled the ASL's new deployment line today.

Brigadier General Ilia was accompanied by General Antoine Lahd.

Peres To Meet Pope During Italian Visit

TA131101 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Feb 85 p 1

["Exclusive" report by Dan Shahar from Italy]

[Excerpt] Rome — Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will be received by Pope John Paul II in the Vatican during his official visit to Italy next week. This was reported with certainty by Vatican sources. The sources do not rule out the possibility that the pope may visit Jerusalem in the near future.

This will be the second time that the pope meets with an Israeli personality. Golda Meir was received in the Vatican by Pope Paul VI. The latter visited Israel at the beginning of his tenure.

It should be stressed that Pope John Paul II was the first pope to visit the old Jewish ghetto in Rome, and in 1979 he even met with Italian Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Toaf.

Pertini Shortens Egypt Visit as Gesture to Peres

TA131420 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Feb 85 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Refa'el Mann]

[Text] Italian President Sandro Pertini will shorten his official visit to Egypt next week and will return to Rome to meet with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Pertini will give a dinner in honor of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres during the latter's official visit to Rome. Political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that Pertini's decision to return early to Rome to meet with Peres should be viewed as a special gesture, mainly in light of the criticism of the Italian president following his meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Peres will start his visit to Rome next week, and this will be the first official visit by an Israeli prime minister to Italy. He will meet, among others, with Prime Minster Bettino Craxi, ministers, Parliament members, Jewish community leaders, and Italian religious leaders.

Jerusalem attaches special importance to the talks with Craxi, because he is the current president of the EEC. In the talks, Peres will bring up Israel's demand that its agricultural exports not be harmed by Spain's and Portugal's joining the EEC. Peres and Craxi will also discuss the peace process in the Middle East and Europe's involvement in the process. Craxi is scheduled to fly to Washington in early March for talks with President Reagan.

Egypt's Charge d'Affaires Leaves for Cairo

TA131551 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel, Muhammad Basyuni, left 2 days ago for Cairo for consultations. This is reported by our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar.

Our correspondent also reports that a source in the Egyptian embassy in Israel complained that Israeli newspapers are not passed on to Cairo in an orderly fashion despite the bilateral agreement on the issue. According to the source, Egypt is upholding its obligations, and consistently sends its newspapers to Israel.

Meeting Held With Egypt on Daqar, MIA's

TA131140 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Feb 85 p 6

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] In the headquarters of the MFO near Al-'Arish, representatives of Israel and Egypt are meeting on the possibility of resuming the search for the *Daqar* submarine off the Egyptian coast, and for the bodies of the 19 IDF MIA's who fell on Egyptian territory.

The *DAVAR* correspondent has learned that the talks started yesterday and will end today. The Israeli delegation is headed by Brigadier General Dov Si'on, and the senior Egyptian representative is Brigadier Faruq Labib.

The meeting, held in the framework of the joint military liaison committee, was decided upon in the talks which took place in Beersheba 2 weeks ago between representatives of both countries. In these talks, the Egyptians agreed in principle to allow Israel to resume the searches, and to discuss the technical details in talks in the MFO headquarters.

Meanwhile, Israel's Ambassador to Egypt Moshe Sason is to arrive in Israel today with a message from the Egyuptian prime minister with whom he met 2 days ago. The Foreign Ministry terms the visit "a routine visit for periodic consultations."

President Herzog Sums Up European Trip

TA131330 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] President Hayim Herzog is scheduled to arrive in Belgium shortly, where he will meet the king, the prime minister, foreign minister, and members of parliament. This is the president's last stop on his European trip which started last Sunday. Yesterday the president was the guest of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. He addressed the Parliament and also talked with various members. Our correspondent in Europe David Witzthum accompanied the president, and he talked with Hayim Herzog who summed up his European visit:

[Begin recording] [Witzthum] An interim assessment of the president's trip indicates that there is a new atmosphere in Europe — different kinds of questions at news conference, a readiness to understand Israel's positions, openness, and friendship. This is what the president told me in an interview with the Voice of Israel. The Europeans consider the president's visit as part of the concentrated effort by Israel to make the EEC take into consideration the problems of Israel's agricultural exports, and to show more understanding for its political positions. This concentrated effort will take Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to Italy next week, and Foreign Minister Shamir to Germany, Belgium, and France immediately following that visit. President Herzog, the first visitor, found an attentive ear.

[Herzog] Immediately following my appearance, a draft proposal was submitted to the European Parliament demanding that it take into consideration our problems and meet us halfway on this issue. I have a feeling that we have friends here. Obviously there will be a battle. However, it is interesting that we find ourselves with very interesting allies, namely the Arab countries in the Mediterranean basin, the Maghred countries; obviously this fact also helps.

[Witzthum] This is a draft proposal whose political ramifications are not great. It is, however, part of the Israeli effort to race against the EEC's clock, against the possibility that in the final stage of negotiations with Israel, Spanish and Portuguese delegates will participate and exert pressures against the Israeli position. [end recording]

F-15's, F-16's To Arrive 'in Coming Months'

TA131115 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Feb 85 p 1

[Report from the United States by Tzvi Bar'el]

[Text] In the coming months, Israel will receive 11 F-15 planes as compensation for the sale of AWAC's to Saudi Arabia. An agreement to this effect was reached when the administration — with the approval of Congress — decided to sell the AWAC's to Saudi Arabia.

At first it was determined that Israel would receive a loan to purchase the planes, worth approximately $400 million. However, the administration later complied with Israel's request to convert it into a grant, and the sum was approved as such.

In addition, in the coming months Israel will receive 15 F-16 planes which Israel ordered approximately 2 years ago. On the whole, Israel will not be harmed by the administration's decision not to sell new ammunition systems to the Middle East for the time being, until the political assessment of the link between weapons sales and the peace process is concluded. The Israeli orders have been "under way" for a long time, and all of them have been concluded. Therefore, the freeze on weapons sales, which includes Israel, will not actually harm it.

Minister Tzur Says No Final Decision on VOA Stations

TA131038 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] Despite reports to the contrary, Absorption Minister Ya'aqov Tzur says that the government has not finally decided to allow the U.S. to establish here Voice of America transmitters that would broadcast to the Soviet Union.

Tzur told *THE JERUSALEM POST* yesterday that he strongly opposes the establishment of such transmitters, since they would be viewed by the Soviets as Israeli opposition to the Soviet regime. The aliyah [immigration] movement, he said, has always emphasized that Russian Jews demand the right to go to Israel, and do not want to topple the Soviet regime.

Tzur said that Israel could not reject the American request outright, but should stress to the Americans that the transmitters would put Israel in a delicate position and might jeopardize the aliyah movement.

OAU Steering Committee Meets in Addis Ababa
AB131131 Lagos NAN in English 1012 GMT 13 Feb 85

[By Ike Mbonu]

[Text] Addis Ababa, Feb 12 (NAN) — The [Nigerian] minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, today in Addis Ababa called on African countries to rehabilitate agriculture and improve food production, to alleviate their economic and social problems. He told the seven-nation steering committee preparing documents for the next summit of the OAU that the problem of external debts of African countries needed to be tackled urgently, a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN), covering the meeting, reports.

Dr Gambari called on the committee "to consider a review of the Lagos Plan of Action and a final plan of action as they relate to the identification of practical measures for accelerated progress in such sectoral areas as industry, transport and communication, science and technology and intra-African trade." The minister also urged the committee to examine the issue of presenting a common platform for action which, he explained, would require cooperation among African states and between Africa and the international community, with a view to solving the "serious economic problems" facing the continent.

The chairman of the committee, Mr Benjamin Mkapa, who is also Tanzania's foreign minister, stressed the importance of producing documents with direct relevance to the needs of African heads of state and government when they convene for the 21st summit of the OAU.

The interim secretary-general of the OAU, Dr Peter Onu, said at the opening session of the meeting that the absence of long-term economic plans was partly responsible for the economic and social crisis facing African countries. Dr Onu, who identified poor management as another factor, said that the situation was compounded by natural disasters like drought and famine. He said that the committee had an important task of making "specific recommendations and harsh choices needed to evolve a self-sustaining and self-sufficient economy for the whole continent." The secretary-general stressed the need for long term planning saying, however, that adequate attention should be paid to providing solutions to the emergency situation. He said that by deciding to devote the OAU 21st summit to economic matters, African leaders had demonstrated a genuine concern and determination to solve "the critical economic and social crisis facing Africa."

The executive director of the ECA [Economic Commission for Africa], Prof Adebayo Adedeji, said that "efforts should be made to restore, re-adjust and relaunch the devastated economy of Africa." Prof Adedeji said that time had come for African countries to establish a coherent programme of action so as to rebuild the continent's economy. He urged the members of the committee to address themselves to such areas as water resources, health, nutrition, livestock development, energy, resettlement and integration of displaced persons as well as balances of payment.

At its 20th summit last November, the OAU mandated Algeria, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Nigeria to prepare documents for its 21st summit which would be devoted to economic matters.

ALGERIA

Jordan's Husayn Concludes Visit to Algeria

LD141243 Algiers APS in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Feb 8

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan left Algeria today at about 1100 at the end of a 3-day working visit. He was seen off by President Chadli Bendjedid.

King Husayn made at statement in the VIP lounge before his departure in which he said: Our talks focused on bilateral relations, the Arab situation, our reality and hopes regarding the future. He expressed happiness at the similarity of views and the common vision, in addition to the determination to work effectively for the preservation of rights and for the defense of the future of the Arab people everywhere.

He said: I had the honor to visit again the homeland of glory and to become acquainted with the fine achievements of the Algerian people. I am overome by the feeling of satisfaction and trust.

King Husayn confirmed that he will be carrying those impressions to the brothers in Jordan, pointing out that the visit has been successful.

He expressed thanks and appreciation to President Chadli Bendjedid and to the Algerian people and government for the hospitality accorded him.

His majesty ended his statement by saying that this visit was to his second homeland and to his brothers and relations.

SFRY's Foreign Minister To Visit 16 February

LD132148 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] At the invitation of Dr Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, Raif Dizdarevic, member of the Federal Executive Council and secretary of foreign affairs of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, will pay an official visit to Algeria from 16 through 18 February.

Further Reportage on Visit of SRV's Giap

Received by President

LD131425 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, received today at the Presidency Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party and vice chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers, in the presence of Brothers Kasdi Merbah, alternate member of the Political Bureau and minister of agriculture and maritime fishing; Abdelkader Benqasi, head of the international affairs and cooperation at the Presidency; and also the Vietnamese ambassador to Algeria.

Makes Press Statement, Departs

LD141253 Algiers APS in English 1135 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Algiers, 14-2-85 (APS) — General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Socialist Republic, left Algiers on Wednesday following an official visit in Algeria.

In a declaration to the press General Giap, who was received by President Chadli, expressed satisfaction for this visit with his meeting with President Chadli, a meeting which touched on strengthening relations between the two countries, as well as ways and means to reinforce peace and friendship between the two peoples.

LIBYA

JANA Comments on U.S. Halt in Arms Sales to Arabs

LD132242 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, 13 February — The American newspaper, *THE WASHINGTON POST* has reported recently that the U.S. Government has decided to halt all sales of new and sophisticated weapons to Arab countries and that this decision will remain in force for a period of 4-6 weeks at least, on the pretext of what the Reagan government has called the completion of studies of American strategic and security interests in the region.

Commenting on this American decision, the JANA political editor said that the U.S. Government's decision represents some sort of disdain for the mentality of the countries that deal with the United States. For the United States invents pretexts to make these countries understand that their demands for the purpose of American arms cannot be at the expense of the Zionists because they are its strategic allies.

We wonder what effect this embargo of arms sales to the Arabs by Washington for such a short limited period of time would have on the Zionist enemy. Washington has been supplying this racist entity with a constant and permanent flood of arms, while it calculates in minutes, hours, and weeks the question of selling arms to the Arabs.

We wonder: Does the imposition of this arms embargo for a short period of time constitute, in Washington's opinion, a threat to the Zionist enemy or does Washington have other motives? [sentence as received] We are completely baffled as to how the American mentality could resort to such tricks and obvious methods, hoping that we could be convinced by them. Washington attaches great importance to the interests of their strategic ally and spares nothing in supplying him.

The Zionist lobby in American official circles has succeeded in making the Reagan government voluntarily allocate huge sums of money amounting to $1.8 billion for the Zionist entity in the form of military aid in 1986.

Naturally, the U.S. Government did not think for one moment of touching this resolution, while at the same time it disdains the Arab mentality. It has thus halted the sale of any new arms to

the Arabs for 4-5 months at least [as received]. Washington's aim from this is clear: It uses such flimsy excuses as pressure and blackmail just to please the Zionist enemy.

MAURITANIA

President Interviewed on PLO, Egypt, Saharan Issues

NC141035 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA) — Mauritanian President Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya has affirmed that the Arab nation can only extricate itself from the currently poor state of affairs by acting in unity.

In an interview to be published in Friday's edition of the *AL-MUSAWWAR* magazine, the Mauritanian president expressed the hope that the Arab nation will overcome its ordeal and that current efforts being exerted in the Arab Maghreb and in the eastern part of the Arab world will succeed in bridging the gap and in bringing divergent positions closer together.

On the dispute within the PLO and on whether Mauritania has a role to play in this context, Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya said: No Arab who is sincerely committed to his nation's causes can help but be upset over the dispute within the PLO. The true dispute must be between the various groups of Palestinians on one hand and the Israeli enemy on the other. These developments in the Palestinian arena only serve the Arab nation's enemies. He added: We have heard, thank God, that these differences have diminished; the most important winner in this case will be the Palestinian issue. Mauritania's stand on this issue is clear: It recognizes the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Mauritania provides assistance and support to the PLO's legitimate struggle to regain its land and to determine its own fate. We are ready to do anything that is asked of us to bridge the gap within the PLO.

Asked about Egypt's return to the Arab arena and whether Mauritania intends to restore relations with Egypt, the Mauritanian president said that this can only be resolved within the framework of the Arab League of which Mauritania is a member.

Asked about Mauritania's relations with the United States and the Soviet Union, the president said: We maintain balanced relations with all of the world's countries, barring Israel and South Africa, on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and the political systems of our choice with no outside influence. Our relations with the United States and the Soviet Union fall within this context. We maintain excellent relations with both superpowers on the basis of mutual benefit and common interests. Along with other states in the Nonaligned Movement, of which we are a member, we are careful to stay out of conflicts involving the two superpowers.

Col Taya noted that Mauritania adheres to all of its international commitments, including recognition of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic . He asserted that this position does not conflict with the neutral position that Mauritania previously maintained toward the Saharan war. He said that this war must be ended through negotiations, noting that his country's territory may not be used for aggression against either of the warring parties or any other party, for that matter. He emphasized that the Saharan problem must be resolved through negotiations as quickly as possible to end the people's great hardship and to prepare for the establishment of the Greater Arab Maghreb, which would benefit all of the area's states.

Taya described Mauritania's relations with Algeria as extremely good. He said: Beyond the bonds of kinship, blood, language, and religion, we are linked to Algeria by common interests and concerns in various areas related to the future of the Arab Maghreb to which we all belong. We are also linked [words indistinct] to the treaty of fraternity and accord with Tunisia.

KENYA

Minister Expresses Concern Over University Closure

EA132121 Nairobi KNA in English 1602 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Nairobi, Feb 13 (KNA) — The following is a full text of the situation at the university by a minister in the office of the president, Mr Justice Ole Tipis.

The party has watched the recent events at our institution of higher learning, Nairobi University, with a lot of concern. The party is greatly concerned about the loss of very valuable time for studies which has been caused by the closure of the university. This repeated loss of study time must mean a great loss to the individual students, parents or guardians and also to the country. The party therefore appeals to all concerned to do everything in their power to ensure that there is stability at the university and that the right climate and atmosphere prevails. This appeal is particularly directed to the parents. The parents should counsel their sons and daughters to learn to take one thing at a time. The time for studies should be devoted to studies. The previous practice of trying to mix studies and other matters will not work and will continue to give our institutions of learning a bad name. Parents must take their responsibility. They must not leave the responsibility to the university authorities or the government alone.

As the university authorities consider how to resume the studies which have been disrupted, the parents should consider how they will prevail on their sons and daughters to conduct themselves in a responsible manner when they are pursuing their studies. Students should avoid unbecoming behaviour and should also avoid falling prey to outside disruptive influences as they can only do this to their own peril. Please do not forget the swahili saying: asiye funswa na wazazi hufunzwa na ulimwengu: [He who is not taught by his parents is taught by the world].

SOMALIA

Opposition Statement on Government 'Tricks'

EA131152 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] A spokesman for the SNM [Somali National Movement] wing of Somali opposition forces, Dr Mohamed Abdi Ismail, has issued a statement by the SNM.

Referring to the so-called resolutions passed by what the Mogadishu clique calls a Central Committee [of the SRSP] session which ended on 11 February on the political, economic, cultural, social, and defense sectors of the Somali people, the statement said that these were tricks aimed at misleading the Somali people once again. These measures were also aimed at keeping the people in the dark regarding the brilliant successes of the Somali opposition forces against the regime.

UGANDA

Briefs

PRC Envoy Departs — The outgoing Chinese ambassador to Uganda, Mr Li Shi, has called on President Obote to say farewell after completion of his tour in Uganda. The meeting took place at parliamentary building. Ambassador Li Shi hailed the excellent relations between Uganda and China and hoped they will be strengthened further. He reviewed Chinese programs in Uganda and pointed out that the aim of the Chinese Government is to enable Ugandans to gain the necessary expertise so that they can manage the projects on their own. President Obote stated that during the 2 years and 7 months Ambassador Li Shi has been in Uganda, relations between Uganda and China improved greatly. Government, he added, will ensure that the ambassador's achievements are maintained and improved. The meeting was attended by ministers and senior government officials. [Text] [*Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 12 Feb 85 EA*]

CAMEROON

J.C. Mitterrand Meets With Biya, Comments

AB132053 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] President Paul Biya received in audience late this morning Jean Christophe Mitterrand, the deputy special adviser to President Mitterrand on African affairs. Jean Christophe Mitterrand has been visiting our country for several days now within the framework of a visit that was planned long ago.

The French envoy explained to Antoine Marie Ngono the topic of his discussions with President Paul Biya.

[Begin recording] [Mitterrand] I discussed with President Paul Biya the outcome of his visit to Paris. On all the topics discussed, we noted that our relations — Cameroon and France — are very good.

[Ngono] Will you please tell me if the president's visit to France was appreciated in Paris?

[Mitterrand] We greatly appreciated President Paul Biya's visit to Paris. As you know, it had been a long time since the two heads of state had had direct contacts. This recent contact was an excellent one. It enabled them to discuss several issues.

[Ngono] On a purely African level, the African countries have noticed a reduction in the cooperation budget. Has France undertaken any steps to honor its commitments to its African partners?

[Mitterrand] France has economic difficulties which you know about as well as I. All the priority projects we have undertaken with African countries will be (?respected).

[Ngono] One last question, which concerns Chad. After the departure of the French troops from Chad, the situation there has not improved and national reconciliation is not yet near. Have you any plans toward improving the situation?

[Mitterrand] Plans are underway. [end recording]

British Minister Begins 5-Day Visit 13 Feb

AB132137 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Te>_] Paul Channon, the British minister of state for trade, has begun a 5-day visit to Cameroon. During the visit, he will hold discussions on bilateral relations between Great Britain and Cameroon and will meet with some government members, notably the ministers of trade and industry, and data processing and procurement, as well as the minister of state for plan and territorial administration.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Kolingba Relieves High Commissioner of Duties

AB131822 Paris AFP in French 1757 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Bangui, 13 Feb (AFP) — CAR head of state General Andre Kolingba has made some minor changes in the high commissioner positions he created during the cabinet reshuffle of 23 January 1984, bringing their number from eight to seven, it was learned today in Bangui.

Francois Gueret, who until now was the high commissioner in charge of state enterprises and parastatals, has been relieved of his duties, it was indicated. According to a presidential decree, the sector of "state enterprises and parastatals" has been attached to the office of the chairman of the Military Committee for National Redress and is headed by Jean Mgbassinga, who is in charge of missions at the chairman's office.

CHAD

Bardai Radio Supports Congo's Conditions for Talks

AB131042 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Summary] One does not need to search too far to know that the intransigence of the Ndjamena group stems mainly from the support they get from American imperialist and the Zionists.

According to our permanent correspondent in Ndjamena, the Ndjamena group only pays lip service to national reconciliation. In fact, they work every day against this objective which goes against their dictatorial concept of power. "Has one ever seen a dictator trying to share power with someone? Of course not. That explains why efforts at national reconciliation cannot get anywhere and why Chadians continue to suffer."

That is why African states should be awakened to this situation. Will the Ndjamena group remain unpunished for all its arrogance to the OAU authorities?

"In any case, the People's Republic of Congo, for its part, has reacted immediately to the statement by the traitor Lassou Gouara. In fact, the Congolese foreign minister has rejected the idea of organizing a roundtable conference again if that conference should not bring about peace in Chad. That was a wise statement which has come at the appropriate time."

For our part, we do not support these annual and biennial reconciliation conferences, with their folkloric reunions and all sorts of so-called leaders, that cannot lead to a just and lasting peace.

Entente Council Summit Ends; Communique Issued

AB131625 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The Entente Council summit of heads of state, which opened in Yamoussoukro yesterday in the presence of Presidents Mathieu Kerekou of Benin, Seyni Kountche of Niger, Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo, Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso, and Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast, ended this morning. The meeting, which was held in a cordial atmosphere, was crowned by a final communique read by the Beninese rural development minister. Presidents Kerekou, Kountche, Eyadema, and Sankara have already left Yamoussoukro. They were seen off by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, who also met them yesterday upon their arrival. Listen to our special reporter, Ali Coulibaly, for details from Yamoussoukro:

[Begin recording] Henceforth, the actions of the Entente Council will primarily concern the rural populations. This was decided by the Entente Council heads of state who just met in Yamoussoukro and it means that the decision they made many years ago is still in force. The famine that has befallen a large portion of Africa certainly prompted them to stand by their decision concerning the rural populations. This has proved that the leaders of the member countries of the Entente Council have realized the seriousness of the difficulties prevailing as well as the size of the job there is to do.

The heads of state of member-countries of the oldest regional organization made it a point to reaffirm their willingness to spare no efforts in seeing to it that self-sufficiency in food does not become a mere slogan but a tangible reality. This self-sufficiency in food is necessarily subject to the development of food crops. This is why the heads of state present in the Ivorian capital urged their respective ministers in charge of development of food crops to meet during this year, 1985, to adopt a program for each member-country. During this meeting, the date of which has not yet been fixed, the same ministers will discuss the necessary conditions for an intervention on the part of the administrative secretariat of the Entente Council. The Entente Council has characteristically displayed its pragmatism by letting each country define what it plans to achieve so that the common objective can be achieved as soon as possible.

The five heads of state of the Entente Council, who also want to do their best for the rural populations, are determined to pursue their efforts in order to ensure a normal water supply for the rural areas. To put an end to the water shortage problem — a perplexing one — a water supply program has been worked out and is being smoothly implemented. When the program is completed, it will have enabled each country to acquire 1,000 boreholes in the years ahead. A major step has already been made in this regard because 330 boreholes have been sunk in each country. The first phase of this project has been possible thanks to French financial assitance totaling 10 billion CFA francs. Negotiations are currently under way with the French on the second phase of the operation so that France may continue to provide financial support for the rural water program.

Another thing worth noting at this Yamoussoukro meeting is the election of President Seyni Kountche of Niger as the current chairman of the Entente Council. He succeeds Beninese head of state Mathieu Kerekou. A change also worth reporting concerns the Economic Community for Livestock and Meat. A new executive secretary has been appointed for the community. He is Moussa Aloua of Niger. He succeeds Roger Tall of Burkina Faso.

This is a summary of the final communique of the Entente Council summit — a summit that lived up to its expectations. The atmosphere was fraternal and cordial. Furthermore, renewing their support for agriculture, the heads of state demonstrated the extent of their determination to ensure the well-being of the farming community. [end recording]

BENIN

Communique on Visit of USSR Journalists Group

AB131015 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The USSR Union of Journalists and the Beninese Journalists Association [AJB] will cooperate hand in hand. During their various meetings, the two associations stressed the need for cooperation between them. At the end of the Soviet delegation's visit in Benin, the last discussions centered once again on this cooperation. Here is the final communique read by Comrade Kako Barthelemy, treasurer of the AJB Executive Bureau:

[Begin recording] Within the framework of the relations of cooperation between the USSR Union of Journalists and the AJB, a delegation of Soviet journalists visited the People's Republic of Benin from 5 to 12 February 1985. This visit took place at the invitation of the AJB following a similar visit paid to the USSR by the AJB in 1982. During its visit, the Soviet delegation held fruitful talks with officials of the Ministry of Information and Communications of the People's Republic of Benin. Working sessions brought together the AJB Executive Bureau and the members of the Soviet delegation. The Beninese delegation was led by Comrade Thomas Meanssan, AJB chairman, and the Soviet delgation by Comrade (Vasiliy Emilianov), member of the board of directors of the USSR Union of Journalists. The following points were discussed: AJB activities, training of Beninese journalists, and study trips and exchange between journalists of the two countries.

Following the disclosure of information by the AJB executive body on its activities and on the major concerns of its members, the head of the Soviet delegation presented to the AJB useful information on the USSR Union of Journalists. The Soviet side also presented for the examination of the Beninese side a draft agreement on cooperation between the two associations. This agreement will be initialed later. The date and venue of the signing will be fixed by both sides. In conclusion, the two delegations noted the concordance of views on current world issues. They decided to jointly strive for peace and security of the peoples, to fight imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, apartheid, and Zionism.

Endorsing the USSR's policy of peace, its aspirations to socialism, and the peace and progress of the people of the People's Republic of Benin, the two delegations expressed their wish to work toward the strengthening of friendship and understanding between the peoples of the two countries. The two delegations expressed their satisfaction with the outcome of their various discussions marked by cordiality, solidarity and friendship.

Before leaving the People's Republic of Benin, the leader of the Soviet delegation thanked the AJB for the friendly welcome and asked that his delegation's gratitude be transmitted to the leadership of the People's Revolution Party of Benin and to the Beninese state for the kindness shown during its visit to the People's Republic of Benin.

Issued in Cotonou on 12 Febraury 1985 in two copies — French and Russian.

Signed by Thomas Meanssan for the AJB, and (Vailiy Emilianov) for the USSR Union of Journalists. [applause] [end recording]

The visit of the Soviet delegation lasted 8 days during which fruitful talks were held by the two unions. Comrade (Emilianov), leader of the Soviet delegation, will leave Cotonou early tomorrow morning.

BURKINA

Meeting Held on Border Problems With Niger

AB132210 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] An informal meeting took place at the quartermaster's headquarters in Ouagadougou between delegates from the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Internal Security of Burkina and the minister delegate for interior of Niger. The Burkina delegation is led by Comrade Ernest Nongma Ouedraogo, minister of interior and security, and includes the high commissioner for Gourma, Seno, Loudala, Tapoa, and representatives of several other ministries from the Burkinabe side. On the Niger side, the delegation is led by Amadou Fiti Maiga, minister delegate for interior in Niger, and includes the prefect of Niamey, the subprefect of Saye Tera, the director of the price control unit, and the deputy director of customs.

Minister Ouedraogo, who opened the session, outlined the purpose of the meeting in his speech. He spoke, among other things, about the movement of people, animals, and goods at the border of the two countries.

[Begin Ouedraogo recording] In a sad letter dated 5 September 1984, you drew my attention to the tragic consequences of the drought on pastures, which has forced stock breeders into a massive emigration. I immediately informed the ministry and the administrative area concerned in order to have the necessary measures taken to facilitate the passage of cattle from Niger.

This is an example of the necessary active solidarity that should underlie our relationship, a solidarity without which, in my view, there would be no development in our region, which has been so sorely tried. At least, to my knowledge, there has been no lack of solidarity, which is in the best interest of our peoples and is in line with the policies outlined by our two heads of state, Presidents Kountche and Sankara. Of course, the movement of people, animals, and sundry goods is not always accomplished without problems. Thus, some incursions here and reprisals there have been reported to us. In short, some minor incidents, which had better be neutralized before they get out of hand, have been reported to us. Mr Minister and Dear Brother, your short visit here should afford us the opportunity to smooth out any problems likely to disturb the tranquillity of our people, especially those living on both sides of our common border. [end recording]

The Niger minister delegate for interior, Amadou Fiti Maiga, in his speech, brought fraternal greetings from President Seyni Kountche to his Burkinabe brothers and thanked them for the warm welcome accorded him and his delegation since their arrival. He then raised some points he would like the delegation to discuss. Let's listen to Minister Maiga:

[Begin recording] During their deliberations, our two delegations will have to dwell on problems of common interest to our two countries. I remain convinced that the outcome of our discussions will contribute to the strengthening of the bonds of friendship, brotherhood, and good-neighborliness which fortunately exist between our two countries. This kind of meeting, which we would like to see institutionalized, enables us to strengthen our relations of good-neighborliness, for it affords us the opportunity to define misunderstandings that could emerge between inhabitants on the borders of our two countries. It also enables us to strengthen our cooperation on security matters in order to foil any attempts at destabilizing either one of our states. [end recording]

Sankara Returns From Entente Council Summit

AB131356 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The president of the Faso and chairman of the National Council of the Revolution has just returned to Ouagadougou after a visit to Yamoussoukro, where he took part in the summit of the Entente Council.

GHANA

Accra on Joint Communique With Algeria

AB130954 Accra Domestic Service in English 2145 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, returned home this afternoon after a 3-day visit to Algeria. He was met at the Kotoka International Airport by PNDC member Mr Justice D.F. Annan, the forces commander, Major General Arnold Quainoo, the inspector general of the police, S.S. Omane, and secretaries of state.

In a joint communique issued in Algiers at the end of the visit, Chairman Rawlings and his host, President Bendjedid, stressed the need to diversify and strengthen the several areas of cooperation between their two countries, especially in the economic, trade, cultural, scientific, and technical fields. In this regard, they called for a meeting of the Ghana-Algeria Joint Commission for Cooperation as soon as possible to examine the new areas in which the two countries can further cooperate. President Bendjedid accepted an invitation by Chairman Rawlings to visit Ghana at a date to be fixed later.

Work-Study Program Discussed With Cuban Officials

AB122056 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Twelve university students who have been learning Spanish will leave Accra for Havana on Thursday to undergo a further 6-month course. This was disclosed in Accra today during the first meeting of the second Ghana-Cuba Joint Commission for Cooperation, which opened in Accra yesterday. The course has been made possible by the first protocol which was signed in 1983. Under the second program, 20 such students will go to Cuba for 1 academic year to study Spanish.

The delegates discussed the work-study program the Cubans have brought with them. The Cuban delegates said the program is basically a moral training one which all preuniversity students are exposed to. It also enables them to participate actively in certain vocations, including farming. Under the program, the Ghana Education Service will send a two-man mission to Cuba on a study tour to see how it can be adopted in Ghana. The Cuban side will send an adviser to Ghana if a decision is taken to implement the work study program. A linkage will also be established between the Ghana Institute of Languages and an equivalent institution in Cuba. It is hoped the relationship would allow the exchange of relevant information between the two institutions. The Cuban side will send two teachers to work in the school of languages and the school of translators.

On health, proposals by Cuba to help Ghana in the form of medical personnel were discussed. Also discussed were proposals for the exchange of health information and the sharing of research experiences between the two countries.

Ecuadoran Envoy Calls for Union of Cocoa Producers

AB131116 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Cocoa-producing countries have been urged to foster closer links to ensure a reasonable pricing system for the commodity. The call was made by the Ecuadoran ambassador to Britain, Mr (Loricio Gandara), in Accra at the end of a 2-day visit to Ghana. Mr (Gandara), who is also his country's delegate to the International Cocoa Alliance Organization, based in London, said there is a need for producers of tropical cash crops like cocoa, coffee, and timber to come together to protect their common interest and improve upon the quality of such products. He regretted that because of long distance between cocoa-producing countries, they have not been able to have closer links. Mr (Gandara) hoped Ghana and Ecuador will cooperate for their mutual benefit. He added that a pragmatic approach has to be adopted by cocoa-producing countries when they meet consumers in Geneva on Friday. The international cocoa agreement expires in September this year.

LIBERIA

LPP's Sawyer Banned From Politics Pending Audit

AB131033 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Dr Amos Sawyer, chairman of the organizing committee of the proposed Liberian People's Party [LPP], has been banned from all political activities pending his submission to an edict for audit for approximately $1.5 million of the dissolved National Constitution Commission's fund. A release from the Assembly issued in Monrovia yesterday said the decision, which becomes effective immediately, was taken yesterday by the Executive Committee of the INA [Interim National Assemly].

The ban on Dr Sawyer stipulates that he is not to engage in any political activities, including the holding of meetings, or interviews, speeches, or the holding of constitutional, political (?meetings) with any individual group. The Executive Committee of the INA stated that this action is necessary because the position to which Dr Sawyer is tied is one that requires full accountability of public funds entrusted to him.

The committee also stated that the audit report from the general auditing office inquiring Dr Sawyer should be submitted to the president of the Interim National Assembly before this ban is lifted.

Doe Commissions Top State Officials 11 Feb

AB121242 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Several top government officials have been commissioned by the head of state and president of the Interim National Assembly, CIC [Commander in Chief] Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe. The ceremony, which took place at the Executive Mansion yesterday, was part of programs marking the 28th anniversary of Armed Forces Day.

According to LINA, those commissioned were Brigadier General Abraham D. Kollie, deputy vice head of state; and Brigadier General Jeffred Gbatu, speaker of the Interim National Assembly [INA]; as well as eight members of the INA. Others included 2 cabinet ministers, 3 deputy ministers, an associate justice of the Supreme Court, 25 judges of circuit courts throughout the country, as well as 3 heads of autonomus (?burgs).

NIGER

Kountche Returns From Entente Council Summit

AB132035 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The head of state, Brigadier General Seyni Kountche, returned to Niamey today in the early afternoon after participating in the Entente Council heads of state summit in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast. Upon his arrival in Niamey, President Kountche was met by the chairman of the National Development Council, Mamane Oumarou, and by the chief of staff of the Niger Armed Forces, Lieutenant Colonel Ali Seydou. He was also met by members of the government and several other personalities.

NIGERIA

Government Issues 1985 Wage-Price Guidelines

AB140955 Lagos NAN in English 0915 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Lagos, Feb. 13 (NAN) — Promotions in the public and private sectors can now be backdated under new guidelines on wages, salaries and fringe benefits released by the Federal Military Government today in Lagos. The guidelines, which also cover incomes of professionals, dividends and prices for 1985, are contained in a statement issued by the Cabinet Office.

According to the statement, "No general percentage increase in salaries and wages will be permitted" this year. It said that although the government had taken a number of steps to restore economic activities to their former levels, the economy was still relatively depressed because the impact of the new measures were yet to be realised. The statement said that government would however allow normal increments, adding that adjustments in incremental rates remained forbidden.

It noted that festival or end of year bonus payments by private and public establishments shall be regarded as ex-gratia payments by management and shall not be subject to negotiations. It however warned that no employee shall receive, in any one calendar year, an amount higher than one month's basic salary as ex-gratia payments. Proposals for such payments are to be submitted to the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity for approval.

On incomes to professionals, the statement said that increase in fees paid to non-executive directors of companies would not be allowed this year. It said that government-approved rates for such professional services as those provided by architects, engineers, quantity surveyors and medical doctors shall not be exceeded in both the private and the public sectors. The statement said that in view of the continuing restraint on wages and salaries, the government would not permit any increases in the fees charged by accounting and auditing firms.

According to the statement, a withholding tax of 15 per cent would be payable on all dividends. It said that dividends up to 60 per cent of the current year's after-tax profit before tax may be declared and distributed. In the case of pioneer companies, up to 60 per cent of the current year's profit before tax may be declared and distributed.

On prices, the statement said that a price increase not exceeding 5 per cent may be effected during the year after prior consultation with, and consent of the Productivity, Prices and Incomes Board. Applications for such increases must be submitted to the board four weeks before the date of the proposed increase. The statement warned companies not to apply for price increases on the basis of anticipated increases in costs. It said that advertisements for the sale of goods and services should carry prices of such goods and services.

Lagos on U.S. Policy in Southern Africa

AB132125 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The study on formulation and execution of the U.S. foreign policy is an interesting and highly rewarding academic exercise. Scholars in this field of study and authors of several books on American foreign policy share the same view on one important theme: that is the fact that the American foreign policy is virtually institutionalized. What this means is that the country in its more than 200 years of existence has built a somewhat permanent foreign policy framework. The framework has taken a long-shot [as heard] view of the planets, the continents, regions, nations, and organizations within the universe. But a pro forma, the U.S. knows how to influence events or react to events anywhere, even at very short notice. [sentence as heard] This is regardless of the party whose representative is at the White House. As some American policy makers and executors had admitted in the past, it does not matter whether Democrats or Republicans occupy the White House.

The U.S foreign policy has clear shape and form. What indeed may be different is the style with which the policies are executed by any incumbent president. Those who stated this view predicted in 1976 that the Carter Administration will be rhetorical in its approach to the problems in southern Africa. They said the rhetorics would not result in tangible change in the American foreign policy in that region. Looking back, they may be right. When President Ronald Reagan assumed office in 1981, it was suggested that he was not a man to take a cosmetic view of South Africa as Carter did. He would uphold the American idea of the situation in South Africa. Again, those who made those predictions must be right in their assessment.

President Reagan first of all believed that South Africa falls in the category of the American perception of the free world, so his gestures to South Africa were on the side of the white minority racists. The manifestation of this is in his policy of constructive engagement with apartheid South Africa. It is through that policy that some heads of the Frontline States compulsorily signed nonaggression treaties with the white minority regime. The pressure on Angola to send Cuban troops away in return for a promise on Namibia's independence was an evidence of the implementation of the policy of constructive engagement.

However, there is a new development which calls for a reassessment of the situation. Toward the close of last year and for the better part of this year, influential Americans have been taking part in peaceful demonstrations near the South African Embassy in Washington. Congressmen, civil rights leaders, students, and leading politicians have participated in the peaceful but highly symbolic demonstrations. Many of the demonstrators have been arrested. This is understandable as they had violated a U.S. law. The law forbids demonstrations in the vicinity of foreign embassies. This is mainly to safeguard the sanctity of the embassy and to protect diplomats from molestation. But that is not the real issue now. What is at stake is that Americans are receiving more and more information about the racist enslavement of the black majority in southern Africa. Soweto massacre, Nelson Mandela, civil riots in South Africa, police brutalities, and religious issues are beginning to worry the conscience of influential Americans.

Don't forget, American foreign policy will not change overnight, but the current demonstrations may set in motion some changes which will act as catalyst to the reviewing of American policy on South Africa. Some of these changes are predictable. The black mayor of Atlanta, Georgia, Andrew Young, mentioned one of them in a recent electronic dialogue with a selected Nigerian audience. It will soon be time when the investment public in the United States will stop throwing their money into companies doing business in or with South Africa. The new awareness may then lead to more American investments in independent African states. Secondly, it is envisaged that tougher legislations will be introduced in the Congress to tighten the noose on the racists in South Africa. Thirdly, public opinion now being vigorously expressed through the current demonstration may compel multinational corporations to independently review terms of their business partnership with South Africa. Finally, it is predicted that the U.S. Government will have to respond to the changing views of the American people on their country's policy in Southern Africa. Hopefully, the response should on the long run accomodate the anxiety of the black majority in that region to be free.

NAN on Dikko Kidnapping Trial Proceedings

AB121430 Lagos NAN in English 1412 GMT 12 Feb 85

[By Franklin Adesegha and Sani Sambo]

[Text] London, Feb 12 (NA) — A Nigerian, Mohammed Yusuf, and three Israelis yesterday at the Old Bailey in London pleaded guilty to a two-count charge of administering stupefying drugss and attempting to kidnap fugitive Umaru Dikko last year. Yusuf, 41, and the Israelis, Alexander Barak, 28, Lev-Arie Shapiro, 44, and Felix Messoud Abitol, 33, were arrested at Stansted Airport in July last year following the discovery of Dikko in a Lagos-bound crate. The prosecution alleged that Alexander Barak was the leader of the team, who said that friends in Nigeria had asked him to help bring back the ex-transport minister alive because he had stolen so much from the country, the London correspondents of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reported. According to the prosecution, Barak said that he had been promised payment of expenses and business advantage in return.

As for Abitol, the prosecution alleged that he became involved because he believed it was a right thing to do and that he too had been promised a good job. Shapiro, who was alleged to have administered drugs on Dikko, was invited by Alexander Barak. According to the prosecution, "the Crown believes there is no evidence that the Israeli secret service was involved in the kidnap attempt". Under cross examination, a Scotland Yard detective said that he had infomration that Dikko had bank accounts in Switzerland and the U.S.

Defendants Sentenced

AB130935 Lagos NAN in English 0928 GMT 13 Feb 85

[By Franklin Adesegha]

[Text] London, Feb. 12 (NAN) — A Nigerian and three other kidnappers of fugitive Umaru Dikko were today in London sentenced to various terms of imprisonment by an Old Bailey court, a Western Europe correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reports.

Alexander Barak, an Israeli described as leader of the kidnap team, was sentenced to fourteen years on each of the two counts of the charge while Mohammed Yusuf, the Nigerian, is to spend twelve years in jail also for each of the counts. The other Israelis, Lev-Arie Shapiro and Messoud Abitol, got ten years each for each of the two counts. The sentences are, however, to run concurrently. In addition, recommendations are to be made for their deportation. They were sentenced for administering stupefying drugs and attempting to kidnap fugitive Dikko on July 5.

Delivering judgment, Mr Justice Anthony McCowan said that kidnapping was a serious offence and that British courts would take "grave view of any attempt to abduct by force and take overseas against his will a person lawfully living in this country."

Yusuf, 41, and the three Israelis Barak, 28, Shapiro, 44, and Abitol, 33, were arrested at the Stansted Airport last July following the discovery of Dikko in a Lagos-bound crate.

Counsel for Barak, a 28-year-old diamond dealer, said that his client believed that Dikko was responsible for "the economic rape of his own country." Barak planned the kidnapping and recruited his two fellow Israelis to act in subordinat roles, the defence lawyer said, adding: "In his own mind he saw himself as a man helping to bring to justice another man who he was convinced had been guilty of crimes against humanity."

The Nigerian Government has asked Britain to extradite Dikko, who has applied for political asylum in Britain. Dikko escaped to London after the previous regime was deposed in a military coup on Dec. 31, 1983. The Old Bailey court heard testimony that he had "a lifestyle of sheer extravagance" in London, owning a private jet, two houses and a fleet of cars.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

African Portuguese-Speaking Nations Plan Summit

Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde Presidents

AB131720 Paris AFP in French 1105 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Sao Tome, 13 Feb (AFP) — Presidents Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde and Joao "Nino" Vieira of Guinea Bissau arrived in Sao Tome on Wednesday morning to participate in the fifth summit of African Portuguese-speaking countries which will be held there on Thursday and Friday. Presidents Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Samora Machel of Mozambique are expected in the Sao Tome and Principe capital in the afternoon.

President Vieira, who hosted the preceding summit in December 1983, said on arrival in Sao Tome that the aim of the heads of state meeting was to "dynamize" cooperation between the five countries and to "overcome obstacles to this cooperation." He pointed out in addition that the five heads of state would examine "the world situation and the situation prevailing in each country."

The presidents of Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau were met at the airport by the Sao Tome president, Manuel Pinto da Costa.

Machel on Summit's Objectives

MB140811 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Samora Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, said in Sao Tome yesterday that the summit meeting of the Portuguese-speaking African countries, which begins in that town today, is essentially aimed at consolidating the independence of the five nations. The Mozambican head of state explained that, and we quote, It is to enable us to make greater efforts in certain common problems. Although their specifics differ, the problems are identical, unquote.

In the words of President Samora Machel, the five countries attained independence by arms and thus they won external and internal enemies. As for the internal enemies, Marshal Samora Machel said that they did not even get the crumbs of the colonial banquet. After stating that cooperation among the five countries was built during the armed liberation struggle, President Samora Machel said that our task now is to structure our cooperation and distribute our tasks in this cooperation.

President Samora Machel and his Cape Verde, Angola, and Guinea-Bissau counterparts arrived in Sao Tome yesterday. Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of Guinea-Bissau, in his capacity as coordinating chairman, made a press statement in which he said, and we quote, This summit is aimed at continuously promoting our cooperation and overcoming the obstacles preventing its development, unquote.

Dos Santos on Goals

MB140651 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, has been in Sao Tome and Principe since last night, where he will participate beginning today in the fifth summit of the heads of state of the Portuguese-speaking African countries. Approached by reporters minutes after his arrival in Sao Tome, the Angolan head of state declared that the summit will permit exchanging experiences and searching for ways to strengthen cooperation among the five Portuguese-speaking African countries.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos was received by Manuel Pinto da Costa, the Sao Tome and Principe head of state, as well as members of the party and government and the diplomatic corps accredited to Sao Tome and Principe. In this visit to Sao Tome, the Angolan head of state is accompanied by Carlos Fernandes, secretary of state for cooperation; Major Jose Maria, secretary of the president for defense and security; and Aldemiro Vaz da Conceicao, secretary of the president for information.

Presidents Samora Machel of Mozambique, Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde, and Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau, who had a stopover in Luanda, have already arrived in Sao Tome to take part in the summit.

SENEGAL

Niger President To Visit Country From 24-26 Feb

AB131122 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met yesterday under the chairmanship of the head of state, who informed the meeting that he would make a working visit to the Saint-Louis District on 21 and 22 February. The president of the Republic also informed the council that His Excellency President Seyni Kountche, the head of state of the Republic of Niger and current chairman of the conference of heads of state and government of the Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, would pay a friendly and working visit to Senegal from 24 to 26 February.

TOGO

Eyadema Returns From Entente Council Summit

AB131450 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The head of state, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, arrived in Lome at 1210 from Yamoussoukro, where he took part in the Entente Council summit. He was welcomed by Mr Kpotivi Lacle, member of the Political Bureau and minister of interior.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Leaves for 5-Nation African Summit

MB132000 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of the Republic, this afternoon left for Sao Tome and Principe, where he will take part in the summit of the heads of state from the five Portuguese-speaking African countries. The head of state is accompanied by Carlos Fernandes, the secretary of state for cooperation, and Aldemiro Vaz and Jose Maria, the secretaries to the president for information, and defense and security respectively. Also leaving for the summit in Sao Tome and Principe was Field Marshal Samora Moises Machel, who was on a several-hour stopover in Luanda 2 hours before the departure of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

In the morning, Presidents Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde and Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau, who have been in Luanda since yesterday, also left for Sao Tome and Principe. The summit, which opens in the Sao Tomean capital tomorrow, was prepared by a ministerial meeting which ended yesterday.

14 UNITA Members Killed by Security Forces

MB121345 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Between 28 January and 1 February, 14 UNITA criminals were annihilated by the national defense and security forces in the Provinces of Moxico, Huila, and Cunene. According to ANGOP, citing authorized military sources, another four criminals were captured by the fighters of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola and a large quantity of war materiel was seized. Six UNITA and Angolan National Liberation Front elements have also presented themselves to our authorities in Bengo during the same period. ANGOP also points out that (?two) peasants who had been forced into the bush by UNITA counterrevolutionary and criminal groups escaped from captivity and presented themselves to our authorities in Lunda Sul Province at the beginning of this month.

MADAGASCAR

Ratsiraka Receives Visiting Italian Delegation

MB131146 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 1030 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, received at the Ambohitsorohitra state palace this morning the Italian delegation currently visiting our country to attend the Italian-Malagasy Joint Commission meeting. The Italian delegation is led by the state scretary to the Italian Foreign Ministery. Present at the meeting this morning was (Enrico D'Alessandro), Italian ambassador to Madagascar. Nothing is known about the meeting, but it is known that it dealt with improving relations between the two countries.

Mr Bemananjara, foreign minister; Mr Rakotomavo, minister in the office of the president in charge of finance and economy; Mr [name indistinct], director of the office of the president; and the director of the [word indistinct] plan; as well as several other officials were present at the meeting at the Ambohitsorohitra palace.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Leaves for 5-Nation Summit in Sao Tome

MB131214 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Samora Machel, chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, this morning left for the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

President Samora Machel will participate in a summit of the heads of state of the Portuguese-speaking African countries in Sao Tome, due to begin tomorrow.

He was bid farewell by Political Bureau members Marcelino dos Santos, Joaquim Chissano, and Alberto Chipande, among other party and state officials.

A Mozambican delegation headed by Jacinto Veloso is already in Sao Tome and Principe. Veloso took part in a ministerial meeting in preparation for the summit of the heads of state.

DPRK Envoy Hails Friendship, Solidarity Ties

MB131553 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] (Kung Sang-ho), charge d'affaires of the DPRK Embassy, today said in Maputo that the government of his country holds in high esteem the friendship and solidarity between the Korean and Mozambican peoples. (Kung Sang-ho) added that his country will do its best to strengthen and develop these relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The Korean diplomat, who was speaking to journalists on the 43d birthday of Kim Chong-il, successor to the president of that Asian nation, said that his country is ready to support Mozambique in its struggle to strengthen independence.

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha To Release Four, Comments on Mandela

MB141135 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, has announced that he has approved the release of four prisoners serving long-term sentences in terms of the country's security legislation. The names of the four will be released later today.

In a statement released in Cape Town today, Mr Botha said he had received the response of Nelson Mandela and a few other prisoners to his conditional offer of freedom. Their response has been to the effect that they were not prepared to give commitments that they would dissociate themselves from violent actions against the state.

Mr Botha said his attitude and that of the government flowed on the one hand from the concern for men who have served a long time in prison, but on the other hand the government could not order the release of these men if they remain committed to violence, sabotage, and terrorism.

Mr Botha said the continued imprisonment of these had of now to be attributed to their refusal to renounce their commitment to violence.

Nel on Talks With ANC, Mandela Release

MB140846 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0824 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 14, SAPA — The South African Government was not prepared to become the "talks partner" of the ANC, the deputy minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Louis Nel, said today. The government was also not prepared to give violence and lawlessness a "cloak of decency" by giving in to demands for the unconditional release of the jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela and his fellow prisoners.

Opening an exhibition of state publications in the H.F. Verwoerd ministerial headquarters in Cape Town, Mr Nel said the treatment of the offer of freedom for Mandela and others by the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, was a typical example of deliberate distortion of the government's message.

The calls for Mandela's unconditional release clearly had hidden motives, he said. The single condition set by Mr Botha was that those concerned should refrain from violence after their release. "This condition is quite just and fair and all reasonable people in South Africa and abroad view it as such, particularly since ANC murder squads have, in the past decade, cold-bloodedly murdered many innocent Asians, whites, and blacks.

"The call which now emerges from various quarters for the unconditional release of Mr Mandela is unrealistic and naive," Mr Nel said. "Here are clearly hidden motives. This call is nothing more than an attempt to give violence, lawlessness, and criminality a cloak of decency and make it an acceptable means toward reaching political goals. It is an attempt to make a terrorist organisation the talks partner (gespreksgenoot) of the government. The government is not prepared to accept this, but remains willing to talk to people who oppose violence."

DIE TRANSVALER on Negotiations With ANC

MB121456 Pretoria DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 8 Feb 85 p 14

[Editorial: "ANC'S Martyr"]

[Text] This newspaper has from the outset had misgivings about whether the ANC is capable of entering into debate or negotiations with the South African Government. Now, a week after the offer of conditional release made to Mandela, these misgivings have been confirmed. Through the offer, which must be seen as a sincere gesture by the government to prepare the way for negotiations over the complicated group relations of the country, the role of the ANC has been exposed.

Now Oliver Tambo, president of the banned organization, has confirmed our doubts — and in doing so, underlined the unwritten declaration of war against the South African Government. Tambo's statements in Harare 2 days ago cannot be seen as anything but a declaration of war against the government and the people of this country, regardless of race or color, who are seeking peaceful solutions.

Not only does he see no alternative for the ANC, other than armed struggle, but he also promises to intensify the struggle against the existing system. This is dangerous rhetoric, which could just as well be taken from the textbook of the South African Communist Party [SACP] leadership of the likes of Joe Slovo. But it also emphasizes two aspects of the ANC, which South Africa will certainly have to take into account anew:

— That the communists, who are openly working for bloody revolution in South Africa, have so tightened their stranglehold on the ANC that that organization has for some time no longer existed purely for the protection of the interests of the blacks in this country.

— That a greater degree of violence must be expected from the ANC, especially as progress is made in the initiatives towards finding a solution for the issues facing the country's population. This emphasizes the need that now exists to transform the initiatives into a working reality. As that makes progress, the support that the ANC and its blood brother, the SACP, are able to count on will shrink, even disappear.

As for Mandela, the attitude of the ANC is clear: as long as he remains in prison, the organization, in its search for sympathy, can hold him up to the world as a martyr prepared to end his life in prison for the sake of the cause.

There is doubt about the value of the ANC of a free Mandela — especially in light of the fact that during the 20 years he has been behind bars the ANC has allowed its aims and aspirations to be changed drastically.

Radio Freedom Cites ANC's Tambo on Armed Struggle
EA131236 Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English to South Africa 1930 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Special feature: "Long Live the People's War"]

[Excerpt] Compatriots, as you all know by now, our leader Comrade Nelson Mandela has rejected the apartheid offer of release which was on condition that he renounces the revolutionary violence of the ANC. In our program tonight, we shall look into the factors surrounding our armed liberation struggle as spearheaded by Umkhonto we Sizwe — our peoples' army.

Firstly, what is this armed struggle all about? Why are the people of South Africa engaged in this bitter war? According to our president, Comrade Oliver Tambo:

[Begin recording] We are fighting for power in that country. We have a just cause on our side. It is our country. [end recording]

In an interview Comrade Tambo had in Holland, he had an opportunity to address this issue of violence which is being portrayed by the racists as the main stumbling block to the solution of the South African problem. In this interview, Comrade Tambo also explained the advanced position of the United Democratic Front [UDF] in this struggle and that it is not an alternative to the provisions of the democratic liberation movement:

[Begin recording] [Tambo] The alternative to decades of talking, negotiating, pursuing this peacefully, patiently, has been to take up arms. What we are doing now is the alternative to the failure of methods of many decades. You know that the South African situation is an act of violence against the majority — physical violence, (?political) violence, spiritual violence. We have in the end decided to respond to this violence, in the failure of everything else, by taking up arms, and ourselves using violent methods.

That is our strategy over quite sometime now. There is no change in that. The moment we changed from nonviolence in 1961 to a struggle that embraced the use of violence, it is at that point that the changes took place, when the [word indistinct] strategy was adopted.

[Unidentified interviewer] Yes, you said there is no change, but in an interview you were saying: I am sure we are going to lose many civilians and many innocent people. I am afriad this is the time. I am thinking there is a change in the strategy.

[Tambo] No, it does not represent a change in the strategy. It simply represents a development and the scale of conflict. It is an escalation, it is an intensification, not a change. But civilians have been dying in South Africa by the thousands. The South African regime has been massacring civilians, some of them childre, hundreds of them in a single day. (?It) has killed civilians in Maseru, civilians in Mozambique, civilians in Angola, civilians in Zimbabwe, in Zambia, in Botswana, in Namibia. You see the word civilian has come into frequent use after the Pretoria bombings. But who were the other people who have been dying all the time in the places that I have mentioned? [Words indistinct] but when Africans are massacred nobody complains that the South African regime is killing and shooting down civilians, as if blacks are not capable of being civilians.

[Interviewer] In your speech for the Amsterdam University, you compared the situation in South Africa with the situation during the Second World War in Europe.

[Tambo] In that [word indistinct] what is interesting is that the theories that motivated nazism are the same theories that have motivated the Nationalist Party of South Africa, and the methods used have been the same. The laws passed, many of them are the same. The vigor and the energy with which these were pursued have been the same. They do not put us into gas chambers; they put us into bantustans. They compel us to go to the bantustans. They starve us in the midst of plenty, and so the death rate is horrifying, especially in the bantustans. Most South Africans will say they did not know, like most people said they did not know what was going on in the gas chambers. They all say they did not know, because it is happening in the backyards of the bantustans, The (?death) is massive, genocidal. [end recording]

Turning to the position of the UDF, our president stressed [words indistinct] the UDF is not an alternative:

[Begin Tambo Recording] It is not an alternative. It is a reinforcement of the liberation struggle in South Africa. [Words indistinct] and it is by people who are (?part of) the liberation movement [word indistinct]. The ANC is part of the people, it expresses the aspirations of the people, and it exists in the people. [end recording]

Paper Views 'Strained' Ties With Neighbors
MB121624 Pretoria DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 7 Feb 85 p 16

[Editorial: "New Tensions"]

[Text] Relations between this country and her neighbors are again strained.

The Nkomati Accord is under pressure, on the one side because of the continued military actions of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement, and on the other because of overt and covert accusations that South Africa is not honoring the accord.

— Since the start of the rainy season, SWAPO has once again been crossing the border into South-West Africa. It is clear that the Angolan Government is unable to control them. The Dos Santos government and South Africa are making accusations that the conditions of the Lusaka Agreement are not being adhered to.

— Both Bophuthatswana and South Africa have complained to Botswana about the increasing number of incidents of ANC infiltration from that country.

This is a disappointing escalation of tensions, because after last year's signing of the Nkomati Accord there were indications that further breakthroughs towards more peaceful relations were possible.

It is understandable that all the old suspicions would not simply be overcome at once. But it is also a pity that a leader like Dr Kenneth Kaunda should now take the lead with his criticism of the Republic.

As for South-West Africa, SWAPO, and Angola, it is becoming clearer by the day that the MPLA government cannot exercise any effective control over the terrorists.

In Botswana, the position is slightly different. But the fact is that terrorist infiltrations from that country have increased recently. Bophuthatswana can vouch for that. The question is whether Botswana is trying hard enough to keep the ANC out.

Seen as a whole, this is an issue between states that is as complicated as can be, with the ANC as the catalyst for many evil developments.

Cool heads and constant negotiations, not suspicion and impulsive accusations, are the only alternatives to escalating conflict. South Africa is still committed to the former.

Johannesburg on U.S. Opposition to Disinvestment
MB130601 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] A new note has been emerging in the American public debate on investment in South Africa, an increasingly incisive and even impatient attitude, and a willingness to take a stand openly and unequivocally among those who reject calls for disinvestment. Where earlier the tirades of the disinvestment campaigners met largely with apologetic defensiveness, they are now encountering scathing comments on their illogicality, backed by detailed facts on the truth of the situation. The development is far from signaling a turn in the tide, but at least it has introduced an element of realism into what had been a decidedly 1-sided argument. This week it was manifested in a condemnation of Mayor Ed Koch of New York by a newspaper that was instrumental in his election 4 years ago.

Commenting on the mayor's disinvestment initiative against South Africa, the *NEW YORK POST* said in an editorial that it could be justified only if two propositions were true: first, that American investment props up apartheid and, second, that the withdrawal of American companies would weaken apartheid. Both propositions, states the editorial, are demonstrably false.

The tone is reminiscent of other recent statements on the issue. Even Ambassador Herman Nickel saw fit to point out that the success of policy is not measured in decibels when Senator Edward Kennedy was visiting South Africa.

To adopt a policy that would quite coolly and deliberately reduce job opportunities, he declared at a luncheon, seems an odd, not to say perverse, way of expressing solidarity in support for the tens of thousands who flock to Crossroads in a desperate search for work.

In Washington, the congressman who drafted the recent much-publicized letters signed by 35 conservatives to urge a tough line on South Africa, has put their statement into perspective. We do not buy the disinvestment idea, Congressman Bob Walker said in an interview with the *WASHINGTON TIMES*. We want something done about apartheid, but are not willing to see South Africa destroyed as a nation.

An editorial in the *WALL STREET JOURNAL* recently advised the administration to seek an even closer relationship with Pretoria and not succumb to pressure to ostracize what is obviously a nation seeking to make a very difficult transition.

In its comments on Mayor Koch's action, the *NEW YORK POST* looks at the effects of American investment in South Africa. American companies employ about 100,000 workers. The two-thirds that are signatories to the Sullivan Code had by last year spent 42 million rand on education, job training, health, and housing. More than 35,000 blacks participated in scholarship programs and more than 50,000 in job advancement training. The editorial concludes: How much of this would have happened if American companies had listened to the city's politicians and remained virtually aloof? None at all. It is that side of the picture, completely overshadowed before, that is illuminated more clearly these days.

Plot To Assassinate Ciskei President Alleged
MB141118 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1106 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Umtata, Feb 14, SAPA — Certain elements within the Ciskei government were planning to assassinate President Lennox Sebe, the fugitive former Ciskei vice-president, the Rev Willie Xaba, said in a statement in Umtata today.

He was retaliating to allegations by the Ciskei commissioner of police, Major-General Lulama Madolo, who was quoted as claiming last week that he reliable information that both Mr Xaba and the former Ciskei minister of transport, Mr Namba Sebe, were planning to overthrow the Ciskei Government.

He said a Ciskei boxing promoter, Mr Hubert Jekwa, also had information regarding the planned coup d'etat by the pair who fled Ciskei last year and were granted political asylum in Transkei.

Mr Xaba was also reported by General Madolo to have attended a political meeting in Ciskei recently which was addressed by Mr Jekwa and the latter was said to have often visited Mr Xaba and Mr Sebe "as their informer."

Mr Sebe immediately responded to the allegations by saying such a coup d'etat was possible from within Ciskei as Ciskeians were "feeling the pinch."

Mr Xaba said today some of the "planners" had accused him of having attended a meeting which discussed overthrowing the Ciskei government.

"I never attended any meeting talking about the overthrow of the Ciskei government. Those are only false stories created by people who succeeded in separating President Sebe from his brother, former commander of the Ciskei combined forces, Mr Charles Sebe. They indeed succeeded in doing so, but their real target is the president himself. They will not rest until they secure an opportunity to assassinate President Sebe."

The former vice-president said the "would-be assassins" would continue working hard to separate President Sebe from his loyalists, like Chief D.M. Jongilanga, after which they would have the president "alone" and would then "annihilate him."

He said the reward he and Mr Sebe, and many others, had received for their loyalty to the Ciskei government was to be compelled to turn their back and leave their homes and graves of their forefathers.

SWAZILAND

Bhekimpi Comments on Political Leaflets

MB131807 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, has appealed to the Swazi nation to take part in the hunt for people responsible for issuing political leaflets in the country. Addressing chiefs and Tinkhundla [Swazi parliamehtary contituency] representatives in Nhlangano today, the prime minister said although the authorities had no idea with regards to the identity of those people, it was clear that the people who print and distribute the leaflets are in league with Prince Dumisa. He reasoned that on announcing his so-called Swaziland Liberation Movement in London this year, Prince Dumisa said he had friends in Swaziland, but he warned that the Swazi Government would not bow down to allow such people to topple the monarchy.

He further submitted that messages contained in the leaflets are aganist the appointment of the crown prince, anti-Liqoqo [supreme council of state], which was formed by the late King Sobhuza II, and the government.

He also disclosed that the present class boycott by university students was politically inspired, because the students boycotted classes after the leaflets had called on pupils, police, workers, and soldiers to strike.

He also told the meeting that the leaflets started circulating in Nhlangano immediately after Prince Dumisa announced the formation of his liberation movement, and said the five 60-days detainees also connived with those responsible for issuing the leaflets, because messages contained in leaflets demand that the detainees hould be released.

Prince Bhekimpi then called on the chiefs to be vigilant and report to the police anything they sensed to be dangerous. But, should they feel there is something wrong with the government, they should speak out their minds, either at Tinkhundla level or at Elusaseni, he said. The prime minister said he was surprised by chiefs who failed to pay courtesy calls to the queen regent to inform her on any developments in their respective places.

Like in Siteki, on Monday this week, the prime minister also told the chiefs to respect their subjects, national identity, and the monarchy. He told them that they should take interest in the people they are assigned to lead and try as much as possible to know all their subjects.

To the Swazi nation, he appealed that it should continue praying in unison for reign of peace, pointing out that God has answered many of their prayers. He cited the present torrential rains as showers of blessings from God, since the rain started falling the very same day the head of state opened the second session of the country's fourth Parliament.

University Council on Request for Security

MB131902 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The vice chancellor of the University of Swaziland, Professor S.M. Guma, has issued a statement with the authority of the chairman of the council to correct erroneous information that has been published by television [as heard] and by *THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND*, to the effect that the Government of Swaziland had received a plea from the University Council that government should take over the control of the university.

A statement issued to our newsroom this morning said: At its meeting on Thursday, 5 February 1985, the University Council met to discuss the boycott of classes and the council came to the conclusion that it was unable to resolve the situation, and decided that the chancellor should be informed. It also agreed that the options available and their implications should also be put to the chancellor for him to take a decision.

The statement went on to say that on Friday, 8 February 1985, the chairman of the council called a meeting of the council committee, which had been set up to work out arrangements for reopening the university. It said the people met the minister for education, who informed the chairman of the council in their presence that government had taken a decision regarding the boycott of classes, as government could not allow the situation to go like this. The minister said the decision of government was to take over the security arrangements of the university. It said the chairman of the council was to convey this decision to the council and to the university community, which he did to both staff and students that afternoon, both at Kwaluseni and Luyengo campuses.

ZAMBIA

Further on Kaunda Comments on Middle East, Africa

MB131333 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Dr Kaunda has called on the Reagan administration to recognize the PLO and the ANC of South Africa in order to speed up solutions to the problems of the Middle East and apartheid South Africa. The president said he could not understand the behavior of the Washington government in refusing to talk to the PLO, which is the recognized body representing the Palestinian people.

Dr Kaunda was speaking in an exclusive interview with *AL AHRAM*, Egypt's leading newspaper, which was published today on the occasion of his third visit to Egypt, which ended yesterday. The president said the ANC of South Africa was exactly in the same position as the PLO. He also attacked the Reagan administration's South African policy of constructive engagement and said the policy has only helped Botha's regime feel encouraged, protected, buttressed, and to behave in a most wild manner insofar as its neighbors are concerned.

The president described the recent so-called constitutional changes in South Africa as cosmetic action which were only aimed at removing petty apartheid.

On the Middle East question, Dr Kaunda reacted sharply against some Arab countries that shouted insults and addressed aggressiveness from rooftops without taking the necessary steps to [words indistinct] themselves. He urged the PLO to continue negotiating with President Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan in order to make progress towards the realization of the homeland. Dr Kaunda attacked Israel for building settlements on the West Bank and called on the international community to put pressure on the Jewish state to withdraw without conditions from occupied Arab territory.

President Kaunda Tours Nordic Countries

For reportage on the visit to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland by President Kenneth Kaunda, see the Nordic Affairs section of the 13 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

ZIMBABWE

More Security Forces Deployed for Elections

MB131724 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The government has deployed more security forces to meet any dissident threat in the forthcoming general election. The minister of home affairs, Comrade Simbi Mubako, told the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation today that more security forces will be deployed to maintain law and order during this period, as the need arises. He said the government is convinced that the elections will be conducted in a peaceful manner, despite numerous threats by some dissidents.

Comrade Mubako said the voter registration exercise cannot be extended beyond the Friday deadline, because this would cause a delay in holding of the election. The minister said thousands of people have had time enough to register since the extension of the exercise. By the end of this week, about 2 million people are expected to have registered as voters. Comrade Mubako said this is an improvement over the last general election, when 2.6 million [figure as heard] people voted.

He also said as soon as the registration of voters expires on Friday, the delimitation committee will start its work, after which the date for the election will be announced.

Kenyan President Sends Message on Elections

MB121808 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] President Daniel T. arap Moi of Kenya has sent a message to President Canaan Banana and the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, expressing the hope that the forthcoming general election will be a success. The message was delivered to Comrade Banana today by the former Zimbabwean ambassador to Kenya, Comrade Edmund Garwe, when he paid a courtesy call on the president at state house. Comrade Garwe, who is the new ambassador to Washington, was accompanied by the new ambassador to Kenya, Comrade Edmond Chipaonga. The two men are expected to take up their new posts later this week.